

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

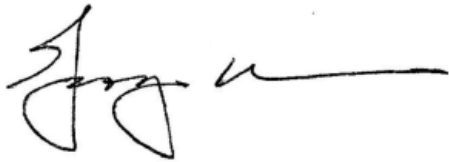
I am requesting funding for the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant Hardening and Infrastructure Protection Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Palmdale Water District, located at 2029 E. Avenue Q, Palmdale, CA 93550.

The funding would be used to implement critical security upgrades, including perimeter hardening, monitored access control, and enhanced surveillance at a facility that treats over 60% of the region's drinking water. These improvements will mitigate risks of vandalism and unauthorized intrusion, ensuring the continued delivery of safe water to 127,000 residents and high-priority national defense facilities, such as Air Force Plant 42. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it protects critical infrastructure essential to public health and regional economic stability. By securing this primary treatment plant, the project prevents potential service disruptions and costly emergency repairs that could arise from security breaches at a vital public utility.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300j-12.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



George Whitesides (CA27)
Member of Congress