



2001 Howard Road, Suite 201
Madera, California 93637

Office: 559-675-0721 Facsimile: 559-675-9328
Website: www.maderactc.org

May 24, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for State Budget Funding – City of Madera Support Letter

Dear Chairs Skinner and Ting:

On behalf of Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), I am writing to offer this letter of support for the City of Madera in their pursuit of securing State Budget Funding. The City intends to use this funding to support its Avenue 13 (Pecan Avenue) Sewer Trunk Main Rehabilitation Project, to rehabilitate several miles of pipeline that has the greatest risk of failure after a recent inspection indicated extensive corrosion along 5 miles of pipeline. This project is of highest urgency, just short of being declared a local emergency. Last year, Madera was awarded \$3.5 million in assistance by Congressman Costa through the Omnibus Bill, however the scope of this project will require at least an additional \$5 million to be fulfilled.

The MCTC fully supports the City's efforts in seeking \$5 million in funding for rehabilitation of the Avenue 13 Sewer Trunk Main. This trunk main is approximately 50 years old and is the only sewer interceptor pipeline delivering wastewater from the City of Madera general region to the wastewater treatment plant. Some portions of the pipeline may potentially be delayed but only for a few years. Other portions are urgent. The City's request for additional State Budget funding addresses those urgent portions. This issue ultimately affects the entire community, residents, and businesses in and around the City. Any failure, regardless of location, would be disastrous.

Potential consequences of failure include:

- Temporary shutdown of the entire City of Madera and adjacent service areas including local schools, Madera Community College, and Madera Community Hospital until a

bypass can be put in place.

- Bypass pumping and environmental cleanup costs are unknown, but there is indication the cost would be in the upwards of \$10 million.
- Damage to the wastewater treatment plant from foreign material deposited in the pipeline from collapse that is washed downstream.
- Closure of Avenue 13 or Union Pacific Railroad Spur Line (depending on location of failure) for an unspecified period during repairs.
- Due to current construction demands in the Central Valley, there could be difficulty finding a contractor to make the emergency repairs.
- Failure in pipe, if not seen by motorist, could result in physical injury to driver and passengers, with potential to affect nearby motorists as well.

All sewage produced by homes and businesses within the city, both grey water and black water, flows through this trunk main to the wastewater treatment plant, which processes approximately 5 million gallons of raw sewage per day. Following completion of the sewer system condition assessment, the City is now faced with extensive rehabilitation costs system-wide because of the age and material of pipelines. Many of the pipes have reached or exceeded their expected useful life. This is an extreme burden facing today's ratepayers which is only exacerbated by the pandemic and the City's demographics.

Like most cities, Madera businesses represent a significant portion of the lifeblood of the community. Failure of the pipeline could cause shutdown or interruption to many businesses thus demonstrating just one more financial impact to ratepayers and residents of the City and County.

This project is vital to the City of Madera infrastructure and cannot be delayed due to its vulnerable state. This project is part of a long-range community vision intended to provide City of Madera residents and businesses with safe, secure, and appropriate services without interruptions.

For these reasons, the MCTC strongly supports the City of Madera's efforts to secure \$5 million under State Budget funding. We urge you to grant their request as it stands to enable the city to maintain essential services residents need.

Sincerely,



Patricia Taylor, Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission

CC:

The Honorable Members of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Budget Committee

Member Agencies: County of Madera, City of Madera, City of Chowchilla