

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
United States House of Representatives
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Representative DeSaulnier,

The President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request proposes to cut or eliminate many programs or agencies our City relies on to provide critical services to our residents. If implemented, these proposed cuts would significantly adversely impact our community. As Congress evaluates the proposal and considers federal funding levels through the appropriations process, I respectfully request your support for funding for the following programs that reflect the priorities of the City of San Pablo and its residents.

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:** Despite its successful 44-year history, the President's Budget Request seeks to eliminate all funding for the CDBG Program. This program provides grants to over 1,200 other local governments to create neighborhood approaches that improve the physical, economic and social conditions in communities for low- and moderate-income residents. Communities use CDBG to fund a variety of activities including housing rehabilitation, business assistance, senior services, and infrastructure. Every \$1 of CDBG leverages another \$4 in other funding, bringing additional vital resources to low-income communities. Given that CDBG funding has already been cut by over \$1 billion since FY 2010, any further decrease to the program would be devastating. Maintaining at least the FY 2018 funding level of \$3.3 billion is critical to the program's continued success.
- **Brownfields Grants:** The President's Budget Request significantly reduces funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfield Grant Program, which helps communities oversee, plan, assess, and clean up contaminated sites so that they can be reused. Approximately 104 million people (roughly 33 percent of the U.S. population) live within three miles of a brownfield site that received EPA funding, yet an estimated 450,000 sites must still be remediated. As of October 2017, the Brownfield grants have led to nearly 70,000 acres of idle land made ready for productive use and more than 129,000 jobs and \$24.7 billion leveraged. Despite all this, the President's budget proposes a 30 percent cut to the Brownfields grants program. The City of San Pablo urges Congress to appropriate robust funding to this program in FY 2019.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** LWCF is an essential part of our nation's efforts to help state and local governments acquire, develop, and plan public outdoor areas in the United States. Since 1965, LWCF has supported park lands and recreation facilities by providing billions of dollars through over 40,000 grants to state and local governments. However, the President's Budget Proposal recommends drastically cutting funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund across multiple federal agencies by 98 percent over FY 2018 funding levels. This would include eliminating all funding (\$124 million) for the state assistance program. If these cuts

13831 San Pablo Avenue, Building I • San Pablo, CA 94806

Main: 510-215-3000 • Fax: 510-215-3011

www.SanPabloCA.gov

were to be implemented, the consequences for public lands, parks, and other recreation areas would be catastrophic. The City of San Pablo supports continued funding for the LWCF state assistance grants at the FY 2018 level of \$124 million and reauthorization of the LWCF in the 115th Congress.

- **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS):** The Department of Justice's COPS program has provided much needed additional law enforcement personnel and resources to local law enforcement agencies across the nation. The discretionary grants awarded by the COPS Program continue to have significantly increased public safety and advanced proven community policing practices. Unfortunately, the President's Budget Request would cut funding for the COPS by 64 percent, recommending a total of \$99 million in FY 2019. The City of San Pablo urges Congress to include at least level funding (\$275 million) in FY 2019 appropriations.
- **Economic Development Administration:** The President's Budget Request proposes to eliminate the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, which would devastate the local communities it is designed to assist. Communities face obstacles to innovation, since systems are set up to support organizations and businesses that operate within the status quo. In funding projects that maximize communities' skill sets and natural talents, they promote responsible business practices and give the United States a comparative advantage in the global marketplace. Eliminating this agency would create huge setbacks for communities, including the City of San Pablo. The City of San Pablo opposes the elimination of the Economic Development Administration and supports continued funding of \$263 million.
- **Job Training:** Our nation's well-being depends on the current and future workforces having access to the education, training, and skill sets needed to keep our infrastructure safe, maintained, and updated. Unfortunately, the President's Budget Request recommends reducing funding for grants through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act by \$1.3 billion, which would be a 42 percent reduction in essential job training funding. This reduction would have immediate and lasting consequences to those in need of job training and technical education. On behalf of its student and future workforce residents, the City of San Pablo supports maintaining and increasing funding for job training, and specifically for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grants at the FY 2018 level of approximately \$3.5 billion.

On the positive side, the City is encouraged by proposed funding increases in the President's Budget Request. In particular, I urge your support for the following programs:

- **Lead Hazard Reduction Program:** The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Lead Hazard Reduction Program provides critical funding to mitigate and remove lead hazards from homes. Within this program, the Healthy Homes Program addresses multiple childhood diseases and injuries in the home related to a variety of environmental health and safety concerns including lead, mold, allergens, asthma, carbon monoxide, home safety, pesticides, and radon. The City of San Pablo applauds the proposed level funding of \$230 million for the Lead Hazard Reduction Program in the President's FY 2019 budget proposal.

- **Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program/Project Safe Neighborhoods:**
The President's FY 2019 Budget Request would provide \$140 million to the Department of Justice for initiatives to reduce gang violence and gun crime. The City of San Pablo urges Congress to appropriate at least \$140 million for this program in FY 2019.

I appreciate the challenges that you and your colleagues face in setting appropriations levels across a multitude of worthy programs and are grateful for your efforts to preserve funding for important programs in a challenging fiscal climate.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the City's views. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Matt Rodriguez, City Manager at 510-215-3000 or MattR@sanpabloca.gov.

Sincerely,



Genoveva Garcia Calloway
Mayor

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris