

[INSERT Water Utility/State/Locality Letterhead, Name and/or Logo]

[INSERT Date]

The bearer of this letter is an essential critical infrastructure worker in the Water and Wastewater Sector and is providing a vital public health and safety service. **Please allow passage of this person, property, and/or equipment to the intended destination.** For verification or inquiries regarding this request, please contact [INSERT NAME, TITLE AND PHONE NUMBER].

On March 27, 2020, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler wrote to the Nation's Governors urging all States to ensure that water and wastewater workers, as well as the manufacturers and suppliers who provide vital goods and services to the water sector, are considered essential workers and businesses by State authorities when enacting restrictions to curb the spread of the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

On March 16, 2020, the President issued *Coronavirus Guidelines for America* which states “[i]f you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security ... you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule.” Following this guidance, on March 28, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released *Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response*. The DHS guidance specifically recognizes the following water and wastewater workers and suppliers to the water sector (e.g., chemical manufacturers and delivery services) as essential critical infrastructure workers:

Employees needed to operate and maintain drinking water and wastewater/drainage infrastructure, including:

- Operational staff at water authorities.
- Operational staff at community water systems.
- Operational staff at wastewater treatment facilities.
- Workers repairing water and wastewater conveyances and performing required sampling or monitoring, including field staff.
- Operational staff for water distribution and testing.
- Operational staff at wastewater collection facilities.
- Operational staff and technical support for SCADA Control systems.
- Chemical and equipment suppliers to water and wastewater systems and personnel protection.
- Workers who maintain digital systems infrastructure supporting water and wastewater operations.

Thank you for your efforts to contain and minimize the spread of the COVID-19. We are dedicated to working with you to ensure the safety of the water workforce and the continued operations of water and wastewater services in support of our nation's public health and safety.

Sincerely,

[INSERT SIGNATURE HERE]

[INSERT PRINTED NAME HERE]