



March 2, 2023

The Honorable Ken Calvert
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the City of Lake Elsinore's Project Request

Dear Representative Calvert:

We are writing in support of the City of Lake Elsinore's community project funding requests for FY2024. The following four projects will positively benefit the community and its citizens. More importantly, they align with the City's long-term strategic plan, Dream Extreme 2040 Plan, and our vision to become the ultimate lake destination where all can live, work, and play, build futures and fulfill dreams.

Water Quality Project

Lake Elsinore is home to Southern California's largest natural freshwater lake. The recreational lake is situated at the end of the 780 square mile San Jacinto Watershed, Lake Elsinore is reliant on rainfall and watershed runoff. With the runoff water also comes sedimentation that can harm the ecology and water quality of the lake. Lake Elsinore is vulnerable to fish die offs and algal blooms. Every day, five million gallons of highly treated recycled water from Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's Regional Water Reclamation Facility is added to Lake Elsinore. This water is used to offset evaporation.

The Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds authority has worked hard over the years to improve water quality. Through the partnership between regional partners and its supporting agencies, Lake Elsinore has received support through fishery studies, carp removal, pump station improvements, bass stocking, destratification, recycled water delivery and habitat enhancements.

Lake Elsinore has historically been vulnerable to algae blooms; Algae blooms occur when the algae grow at rapid speeds than normal causing dense accumulations in the water. They can become harmful when there is excessive growth. Lake Elsinore was recently closed to the public for six months due to high levels of cyanotoxins that are dangerous to the public health. The city along with its regional partners are exploring new technology to improve the water quality of the lake.

- **Federal Funding Sought: \$6 million**
- **City Contribution: \$2 million**

951.674.3124

130 S. Main Street

Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

www.lake-elsinore.org

Homeless Facility Expansion

In December 2021, the city opened the Anchor, a crisis stabilization housing complex owned by the City of Lake Elsinore and operated by Social Work Action Group (SWAG) serving chronic homeless individuals from Lake Elsinore, Wildomar and adjacent county areas. The Anchor has 14 separate units and can house up to 20 individuals. Each individual is selected and placed by the City's Homeless Task Force for up to 90 days and must be thoroughly assessed prior to placement.

The City believes it has created a model approach to developing a comprehensive program that addresses homelessness by leveraging funds, resources, partnerships, and the community to create innovative and effective solutions.

The next phase of the City's approach to meet our goal of reaching functional zero in terms of chronic homelessness by 2025 is tackling our local encampments. The city is concerned with encampments along State Route 74 which cuts through the North side of Lake Elsinore and is adjacent to the Lake. It is estimated that 40 – 50 homeless individuals reside in this area. During the summer months this number is believed to increase to 50-60 due to the vegetation cover and access to the Lake.

The encampments in this area tend to be fully developed camp sites with multiple structures and tents. Most homeless are scattered throughout the vegetation and are connected by manmade pathways. When lake levels increase during the winter, some of the areas flood and cause garbage and human waste to flow into the lake. Homeless individuals create small campfires for cooking and to provide heat causing a high risk for wildfire. Our CALFIRE partners have responded to 1,490 calls for service in these areas in the last five years including small fires in and near these encampments, not only threatening residents and businesses in the area, but also State Route 74.

The City of Lake Elsinore has had great success with our first homeless facility the Anchor and we are looking to open a new facility to house 60 residents in a combination of 20 studios and 40 cubicle style bedrooms. The facility will have supportive services, resident storage, animal areas and services, and indoor and outdoor spaces. Many of the residents living in the encampments have resisted current services because the lack of personal storage or not being able to bring their animals. This new facility will be low barrier housing with a clear pathway to permanent supportive housing.

- **Federal Funding Sought: \$3 million**
- **City Contribution: \$500,000**

Camino Del Norte Infrastructure Improvements

In February 2021, the City of Lake Elsinore opened its newest roadway – Camino Del Norte. This nearly one-mile-long roadway opened more than 125 acres of prime commercially zoned land for future development along Interstate 15. In addition, it greatly improved circulation in the eastern part of the city and provides an alternative roadway for traffic along the freeway.

The area surrounding Camino Del Norte is largely undeveloped and requires significant infrastructure for any future developments. Therefore, the city is seeking funding for this economic development catalyst project to install infrastructure along the roadway that includes

the installation of water, sewer, electrical, gas and broadband. In addition, if funding allows, the city will include lighting and pedestrian improvements.

Camino Del Norte is designated a major roadway and will increase from two-lanes to four-lanes in the future. This project will be constructed alongside the existing roadway, which will allow the project to be swiftly completed. This project aligns with serving as an economic development initiative by opening prime development opportunities in Southern California's second fastest growing City (according to 2020 Census).

- **Federal Funding Sought: \$2 million**
- **City Contribution: \$500,000**

Lakepoint Park & Senior Center Improvements

This park needs new playground equipment, lighting, and artificial turf including circulation improvements. The city is requesting \$2.5 million for the improvements.

The City of Lake Elsinore has 20 community parks. One of its oldest and only lakefront parks is Lakepoint Park. This picturesque park offers two (2) softball fields, a soccer/football field, playground, walking paths (0.36 mile), concession stands and restrooms. In addition, the park offers shaded picnic facilities, barbeque areas and a wonderful view of Lake Elsinore and the Ortega Mountain Range. This park currently serves as the primary location for youth football leagues in the city.

This project proposes the complete restoration of all sport fields including a large artificial turf field with multiple sport line/overlays to accommodate all sports, baseball/softball, football, soccer, lacrosse, etc. Additional proposed improvements include improving connectivity and access to the lake, new playground equipment that aligns with the park's lakefront appeal, restroom upgrades and new snack bar facilities.

- **Federal Funding Sought: \$2.5 million**
- **City Contribution: \$500,000**

We strongly support each of these projects. We look forward to your support for the continued growth and development within the City of Lake Elsinore.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:



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Natasha Johnson, Mayor
Mayor
City of Lake Elsinore

DocuSigned by:



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Jason Simpson
City Manager
City of Lake Elsinore

LAKE ELSINORE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Ken Calvert
United States House of representatives
2205 Rayburn House Offices Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Honorable Congressman Ken Calvert,

I am writing on behalf of the Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce in support of the City of Lake Elsinore's Community Project Funding requests under the FY 2024 appropriations process.

According to the 2020 Census, Lake Elsinore grew by more than 35% and is the second fastest growing City in the State of California. This growth requires additional infrastructure, business, and services that provide the highest quality of life for its residents. Each of these projects will elevate Lake Elsinore, support future investment, and assist the City in fulfilling its vision to become the ultimate lake destination.

- **Lake Water Quality Project** – This is a phase two project to implement treatments that will reduce algal blooms and improve water quality. Lake Elsinore has historically been vulnerable to algae blooms; Algae blooms occur when the algae grow at rapid speeds than normal causing dense accumulations in the water. They can become harmful when there is excessive growth. Lake Elsinore was recently closed to the public for six months due to high levels of cyanotoxins that are dangerous to public health.
- **Homeless Facility Expansion** – A new homeless center with the capacity for 60 residents with supportive services. The City believes it has created a model approach to developing a comprehensive program that addresses homelessness by leveraging funds, resources, partnerships, and the community to create innovative and effective solutions.
- **Camino Del Norte Infrastructure Improvements** – This project will increase the value and interest in more than 125 acres of freeway frontage land for developments. As the region is getting more built out, the interest in lake Elsinore has increased. By investing in this catalyst project, our economic development team will be able to leverage this project for several new and exciting economic development opportunities.
- **Lakepoint Park & Senior Center Improvements** – This park is located within the City's Historic Downtown District and home to many popular events and activities including youth sports. As the City's only lakefront parks, these improvements will elevate the park for use to host more regional community events.
- **Water & Sewer Infrastructure at the I-15** – There are two (2) major exits off of the I-15 in Lake Elsinore that do not have water or sewer infrastructure. This has greatly prohibited our ability to build out services along the I-15 corridor and provide our residents and visitors with convenient access to gas, food and other valuable services.

Each of these projects is important for our thriving community and we are hopeful your office will assist in securing the funding to further improve the safety and quality of life for our community.

Sincerely,



Kim Joseph Cousin
President/CEO of the Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



KAREN SPIEGEL
SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



STAFF

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JACQUELINE ARMENTA, Youth Advisory Council/Legislative intern

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Ken Calvert
United States House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Offices Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Honorable Congressman Ken Calvert,

As the Riverside County Supervisor for the Second District, I would like to express my support for the City of Lake Elsinore and its Community Project Funding Requests for the 2024 Appropriations Bill. As you know, Southwest Riverside County is one of the fastest growing regions in the State of California, and Lake Elsinore is the second fastest growing City in the State according to the latest U.S. Census. As such, our support at the State and Federal level is essential to ensure we can adequately meet demands of our constituents in this thriving community.

Each of the below projects will benefit the state and region including:

- Lake Water Quality Project – This is a phase two project to implement treatments that will reduce algal blooms and improve water quality. Algae blooms occur when the algae grow at rapid speeds than normal causing dense accumulations and can become harmful when there is excessive growth. Lake Elsinore was recently closed to the public for six months due to high levels of cyanotoxins that are dangerous to public health.
- Homeless Facility Expansion – A new homeless center with the capacity for 60 residents with supportive services. The City believes it has created a model approach to developing a comprehensive program that addresses homelessness by leveraging funds, resources, partnerships, and the community to create innovative and effective solutions.
- Camino Del Norte Infrastructure Improvements – This project will increase the value and interest in more than 125 acres of freeway frontage land for developments. As the region is getting more built out, the interest in lake Elsinore has increased. By investing in this catalyst project, our economic development team will be able to leverage this project for several new and exciting economic development opportunities.
- Lakepoint Park & Senior Center Improvements – This park is located within the City's Historic Downtown District and home to many popular events and activities including youth sports. As the City's only lakefront parks, these improvements will elevate the park for use to host more reginal community events.

Overall, each of these projects has extensive benefits and aligns with the State's key areas of focus. It is for these reasons that I request your favorable consideration in support of the City of Lake Elsinore and its Community Project Funding Requests for the 2024 Appropriations Bill. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions regarding my support at (951) 955 - 1020. On behalf of the Second District of Riverside County, we thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Spiegel

Karen Spiegel
Second District Supervisor
County of Riverside