

Project Name: City of Merkel for Water Distribution Line Replacement

Recipient: City of Merkel, TX

Address: 100 Kent Street, Merkel, Texas 79536

Amount Requested: \$2,000,000

Project Explanation:

The City of Merkel requests \$2,000,000 in FY27 EPA STAG Community Project Funding for a first phase of water distribution line replacement. The project will replace approximately 6,000 to 8,000 linear feet of aging public water distribution line in existing service areas, together with valves, fittings, hydrants, service reconnections, and related appurtenances and pavement repair. The total project cost is \$2,500,000, including a \$500,000 local match.

The City of Merkel purchases treated water from the City of Abilene and relies on its distribution system to deliver water to residents and businesses. Much of the system has reached an age at which leaks and line breaks have become a growing concern. The City's 2024 Consumer Confidence Report documented 13,032,729 gallons of water loss in 2024, with most of that loss attributed to flushing and leaks in the distribution system. Replacement of these lines will reduce water loss, improve service reliability, and support drinking water service for current customers.

JODEY C. ARRINGTON
19TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
TAX
TRADE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4319

1111 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4005
FAX: (202) 225-9615

LUBBOCK OFFICE
1312 TEXAS AVENUE, SUITE 219
LUBBOCK, TX 79401
(806) 763-1611
FAX: (806) 767-9168

ABILENE OFFICE
500 CHESTNUT STREET, SUITE 819
ABILENE, TX 79602
(325) 675-9779
FAX: (325) 675-5038

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$2,000,000 in funding as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is the City of Merkel, TX. The project would be a valuable use of federal funding as it would replace aging water distribution lines in existing service areas, reduce water loss, decrease the frequency of leaks and line breaks, and improve the reliability of water service for current residents and businesses. The project is also intended to support the safe and consistent delivery of treated drinking water throughout the system.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes is authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapters 471 and 475.

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

Respectfully,



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress