



736 F Street Arcata, California 95521

City Council
822-5953

City Manager
822-5953

Public Works
822-5957

Police
822-2428

Community Development
822-5955

Environmental Services
822-8184

A&MRTS
822-3775

Finance
822-5951

Recreation Division
822-7091

FAX
822-8018

Senator Diane Feinstein
One Post Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104

via USPS mail & FAX (415.393.0710)

Dear Senator Feinstein,

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Arcata, who care about the long-term well-being of the rural communities in the district, we write to urge your support for federal programs that provide vital support for water, wastewater and solid waste services in rural America. As you know, residents in rural communities tend to have lower incomes than their urban counterparts. Generally costs for these essential services are higher, because the communities lack economies of scale that help spread the costs over greater numbers of people.

For the past three fiscal years, the City of Arcata has had to raise customer water and sewer rates to generate revenue for maintenance and operation of its utilities systems. The City of Arcata is also currently working to develop an improvement plan to address the capacity limitations of its wastewater treatment system. Additionally, the City of Arcata just completed a "Zero Waste Action Plan" to help prevent waste and establish reuse and recycling programs and infrastructure. Support for water, wastewater and solid waste services in rural communities such as ours are crucial to helping these communities move toward a more sustainable economy and a healthier environment.

Specifically, we urge you to support the following programs that create and sustain vibrant, healthy, and enduring rural communities:

- HHS Office of Community Services Rural Community Facilities Program –This funding enables nonprofit organizations, like Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) Partnership, to provide technical assistance to the smallest, poorest communities in America to address their water and wastewater needs.
- USDA Rural Utilities Service Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Program - Congress has consistently supported this funding to help small communities improve infrastructure, protect drinking water resources, comply with federal drinking water regulations, and maintain affordable rates.
- USDA Rural Utilities Service Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program – RUS partners with nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to communities with 10,000 or fewer residents that are eligible for RUS loans or grants— helping them with system operations and to identify financial resources to ensure long-term sustainability.

- USDA Rural Utilities Service Revolving Loan Fund Program –RUS supports revolving nonprofit organization loan funds to make capital available to rural communities for infrastructure projects quickly, efficiently and affordably.
- USDA Rural Utilities Service Solid Waste Program – this program allows rural communities and nonprofit organizations to partner to address landfill, recycling, biomass, and other solid waste challenges.
- EPA State Revolving Fund Program (SRF) – Capitalization grants EPA makes to the SRFs provides financing for larger-scale infrastructure projects that help water and wastewater systems comply with federal regulations.
- EPA Office of Water Technical Assistance Program – This funding allows nonprofit organizations to assist small water and wastewater systems to maintain compliance with federal regulations. It also enables assistance to private well owners and septic system owners.

Please voice your support for these programs as Congress considers appropriations for the remainder of FY17 and as the debate begins on FY18 appropriations.

Thank you for your attention to these issues and for any support you can give.

Sincerely,



Susan Ornelas
Mayor
City of Arcata
736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

cc: Senator McGuire (via email) senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov
Assembly Member Jim Wood (via fax) 707-445-6607
Sara Rounds, League Public Affairs Program Manager (via email) srounds@cacities.org
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities (via email) mdesmond@cacities.org



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Senator Kamala Harris
50 United Nations Plaza, Suite 5584
San Francisco, CA 94102

via USPS mail & FAX (202.224.0454)

Dear Senator Harris,

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Arcata, who care about the long-term well-being of the rural communities in the district, we write to urge your support for federal programs that provide vital support for water, wastewater and solid waste services in rural America. As you know, residents in rural communities tend to have lower incomes than their urban counterparts. Generally costs for these essential services are higher, because the communities lack economies of scale that help spread the costs over greater numbers of people.

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Congressman Jered Huffman
317 Third Street, Suite 1
Eureka, CA 95501

via USPS mail & FAX (707.407.3559)

Dear Congressman Huffman,

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Arcata, who care about the long-term well-being of the rural communities in the district, we write to urge your support for federal programs that provide vital support for water, wastewater and solid waste services in rural America. As you know, residents in rural communities tend to have lower incomes than their urban counterparts. Generally costs for these essential services are higher, because the communities lack economies of scale that help spread the costs over greater numbers of people.

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