

Good morning, Ms. Kaleita.

Thank you for the detailed update and for your ongoing communication outlining the significant effort you and the other homeowners have put in over the past 18 months. We understand how frustrating this latest development must feel, particularly given the progress you have made with the Special Tax Assessment District and the short timeframe in which you were notified to act. We appreciate you explaining the challenges with Watershed Consulting's ability to complete the Notice of Intent (NOI) submittal by the March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 deadline set by the ARPA 3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance (POA) program, and recognize that these issues are largely outside your control placing an added burden on the homeowners and the Town of Richmond.

With respect to the ARPA funding, there are statutory and administrative constraints on how long these funds can remain available. As you know, all awards end August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 and we are required to process final invoices and payments at that time. We've retained some flexibility in the POA program with respect to the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, however, managed on a case-by-case basis. **Given the circumstances you've described, the good-faith efforts you all have made since August 2024, and your proactive communication, we are feeling very confident your site will continue to make progress and spend as much of your award as feasible through the summer of 2026.**

Please know that we do not take lightly the potential loss of funding or the financial impact on the homeowners and the Town of Richmond. **We would like to propose a meeting with you closer to or shortly after the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline** to discuss next steps for your POA award. We can use the meeting to discuss progress to date and timeline/expected progress and award spend down over the summer. **Provided you all continue at your outstanding pace and can provide some reasonable assurances at that time, that the award will be put to use prior to our hard deadline in August we'd look to identify and grant you whatever flexibilities we can.** To be explicit, this guidance is for your site not to submit a partially complete/rushed EFA by the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline but rather to continue on a focused clip and we will coordinate a check in around early March to discuss your status.

Thank you again for your continued communication and cooperation. I look forward to reviewing the additional information and continuing this discussion.

Best regards,

Gianna

**Gianna Petito** (she/her) | Water Investment Division Deputy Director

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