



HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

828 SEVENTH STREET, PO BOX 95 • EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95502-0095

OFFICE 707-443-5018 ESSEX 707-822-2918

FAX 707-443-5731 707-822-8245

EMAIL OFFICE@HBMWD.COM

Website: www.hbmwd.com

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JOHN FRIEDENBACH

April 8, 2022

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD), I am contacting you to respectfully request assistance for our District's unmet needs stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, sourced from the American Rescue Plan Act's (ARPA)'s Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.

As you and fellow County leaders discuss priorities for the second and final tranche of the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, I ask that you consider utilizing the authority granted to the County in ARPA to transfer a portion of those funds to address HBMWD's ongoing COVID-19 impacts and ensure continuation of the essential local services we provide to our shared constituency.

ARPA gives counties the authority to transfer Fiscal Recovery Fund monies to special purpose units of state and local government for the same eligible uses as cities and counties. Among others, these uses include:

- pandemic-related expenditures
- revenue losses
- premium pay for essential workers
- necessary investments in water, wastewater, and broadband services.

HBMWD provides approximately 90,000 residents in Humboldt County with domestic drinking water, which represents approximately 2/3rds of our county's population. To date, HBMWD has experienced **\$160,000** in fiscal impacts eligible under the ARPA's Section 9901, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Unfortunately, special districts were not directly included in Coronavirus Relief Fund allocations to state and local governments. While the 2021-2022 State Budget provided some important new avenues for COVID-19 relief to California's special districts, HBMWD still has **\$160,000** in unmet needs that are eligible for the Fiscal Recovery Fund.

The District's request takes all available funding into consideration. We have no remaining avenues to request relief and are not receiving other state or federal funding for these purposes. Moreover, if we are not able to recover some funding, HBMWD will need to recover these funds from our local rate payers. ARPA grants definitive authority to counties to transfer Local Fiscal Recovery Fund monies to special districts to address these needs for the communities we serve.

We look forward to working with you and your staff on this issue and appreciate your consideration. Please contact me at friedenbach@hbmwd.com or 707-443-5018 to speak further about this request to help HBMWD continue providing essential public services to your constituents. I stand ready to be a resource and answer questions or provide additional information.

Respectfully,


John Friedenbach,
General Manager

cc: Elishia Hayes, CAO