

August 2, 2022

Mr. Kenneth W. Boswell, Director
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103-5690

**RE: Baldwin County Commission CDBG Project No. CY-CM-PF-18-009
Water Extension Project**

Dear Mr. Boswell:

Please accept this as a response to your letter dated June 10, 2022, requesting information on the above referenced grant project. The Baldwin County Commission was awarded this grant in the amount of \$350,000 for the Perdido Bay Water Sewer and Fire Protection District (PBWSF) to extend public water services to an unserved low to moderate income area near Lillian. The project area includes 86 households.

The PVC public water main ranging in size from 3 to 8 inches and new fire hydrants have been installed in accordance with the originally proposed scope of work. 86 homes in the project area were offered new household connections to the system at no charge to the homeowner. Of these households, only about 60% chose to connect to the new system. The other 40% remain on private wells at this time. The PBWSF provided the County with a letter dated July 5, 2022 that affirms that no CDBG funds were expended to hook-up the non-low-to-moderate income (non-LMI) households. The PBWSF provided the local matching funds via in-kind labor and equipment to hook-up all of the households (both LMI and non-LMI) that received household connections. (See attached letter from the PBWSF and attachments for further explanation.)

The PBWSF also provided information via letters to the County dated July 7, 2022 and March 30, 2022, regarding households that did not sign-up to be connected. (See attached letters) The PBWSF did not receive signed Refusal of Service forms from these household residents. The household connections were being offered while COVID restrictions were in place and the project area was also hit by Hurricane's Sally and Zeta during that time. Although all 86 households received the hook-up information, some residents may have missed the opportunity due to these events. PBWSF intends to revisit these homes over the next couple of weeks to offer household connections at no charge to the homeowners a final time, and to collect the Refusal of Service forms for those households refusing the connections. This will ensure that no potential beneficiaries missed the opportunity, and will enable the PBWSF to accurately document the reason for homeowner's refusal.

The current approved Implementation Plan for this project states that the Commission will provide close-out documents to ADECA by December 31, 2022. The PBWSF has agreed to provide any additional household connections, and documentation regarding households refusing service, as quickly as possible. Once this has been accomplished, the Commission will submit an Amendment, if necessary.

Enclosed you will find documentation supporting this letter. If you require any further information, please feel free to contact our office and the CDBG Grants Administrator, Ms. Stacy McKean.

Sincerely,

JAMES E. BALL, Chairman
Baldwin County Commission

cc: Shabbir Olia, CED Division Chief
Stacy McKean

Attachments