

September 11, 2023

Michael Falk, Town Supervisor
Town of Lima
7329 East Main Street
Lima, NY 14485

SUBJECT: Recipient Name: Town of Lima
Project Name: WD #5
Letter of Conditions Water Application
CFDA NUMBER - 10.760

Dear Supervisor Falk:

This letter establishes conditions which must be understood and agreed to by you before further consideration may be given to your application. The loan and grant will be administered on behalf of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) by the State and Area staff of USDA Rural Development, both of which are referred to throughout this letter as the Agency. Any changes in project cost, source of funds, scope of project, or any other significant changes in the project or applicant must be reported to and concurred with by the Agency by written amendment to this letter. This includes any significant changes in the Applicant's financial condition, operation, organizational structure or executive leadership. If significant changes are made without obtaining such concurrence, the Agency may discontinue processing of the application.

This letter does not constitute loan and grant approval, nor does it ensure that funds are or will be available for the project. The funding is being processed on the basis of a loan not to exceed \$20,000,000 and/or a grant not to exceed \$11,140,000. The loan and grant will be considered approved on the date Form RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of Funds" is signed by the Agency approval official.

The applicant will ensure projects are completed in a timely, efficient, and economical manner. You must meet all conditions set forth under Section III – Requirements Prior to Advertising for Bids within 1 year of this letter.

If you do not meet the conditions of this letter, the Agency reserves the right to withdraw Agency funding.

Brenda L. Smith, Community Programs Director
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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

If you agree to meet the conditions set forth in this letter and desire further consideration be given to your application, please complete and return the following forms upon receipt:

Form RD 1942-46, "Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions"
Form RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of Funds"

All parties may access information and regulations referenced in this letter at our website located at [Water and Environmental Programs | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/water-and-environmental-programs/rural-development).

The conditions are as follows:

SECTION I - PROJECT SCOPE

1. **Project Description** – Funds will be used to construction a new water distribution system for Water District #5 in the Town of Lima, Livingston County, New York. This includes the installation of approximately 263,590 LF of 8-inch main to provide potable water and fire service.

Facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices and must meet the requirements of Federal, State, and local agencies. The proposed facility design must be based on the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), prepared by CPL dated June 2023, as concurred with by the Agency.

2. **Project Funding** – The Agency is offering the following funding for your project:

Agency Loan -	<u>\$20,000,000</u>
Agency Grant -	<u>\$11,140,000</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST -	\$31,140,000

Any changes in funding sources following obligation of Agency funds must be reported to the processing official. Prior to loan closing, any increase in non-Agency funding will be applied to the total project costs and the project will be re-underwritten.

If, after obligation of Agency funds, other funding becomes available, the Agency reserves the right to deobligate any and all funding for this project and to re-underwrite. This may result in the offering of a different funding package for this project. Any additional costs or conditions associated with these additional funds are not eligible and will be the responsibility of the applicant.

Prior to advertisement for construction bids, you must provide evidence of applicant contributions and other funding sources. This evidence should include a copy of the commitment letter. Agency funds will not be used to pre-finance funds committed to the project from other sources.

3. **Project Budget** – Funding from all sources has been budgeted for the estimated expenditures as follows:

Project Costs:		Total Budgeted:
Legal Fees - Local Attorney		\$50,000
Legal Fees - Bond Counsel		\$25,000
Interest - Interim		\$300,000
Fiscal Coordination		\$12,500
Single Audit		\$38,000
Miscellaneous		\$10,000
Engineering Fees (includes)		\$3,515,000
Preliminary Engineering Report	\$ 75,000	
Design	\$1,490,000	
Construction Administration	\$ 300,000	
Resident Project Representation	\$1,000,000	
Additional – Geo Tech Investigation	\$ 250,000	
Additional – Survey & Mapping	\$ 350,000	
Additional – Archeological Survey	\$ 50,000	
Construction		\$24,709,886
Contingency		\$2,479,614
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS		\$31,140,000

Project feasibility and funding will be reassessed if there is a significant change in project costs after bids are received. Obligated loan and/or grant funds not needed to complete the proposed project will be deobligated. If actual project costs exceed the project cost estimates, an additional contribution by the Owner may be necessary. An “Amended Letter of Conditions” will be issued for any changes to the total project budget.

4. **Project Timeline** – To ensure that the project proceeds in a timely manner, key processing milestones have been established in accordance with the PER or other Agency approved documentation. **Projects should be completed, and Agency funds fully disbursed within three years of obligation.** Should your final completion date become more than three years after obligation the written request will follow the procedures outlined in Section VI of this letter. The correspondence must contain a valid explanation as to why the project completion cannot be met and include a proposed revised project completion schedule. If the Agency agrees to the modification, a written confirmation will be issued. The Agency reserves the right to de-obligate loan and/or grant funds, or take other appropriate action, if the established or amended deadlines are not met.

SECTION II – RATES & TERMS

5. **Interest Rates and Loan Terms** – The interest rate will be the lower of the rate in effect at the time of loan approval or the time of loan closing, unless you request otherwise. Should the interest rate be reduced, the payment will be recalculated to the lower amount. The payment due date will be established as the day that the loan closes.

Your loan will be scheduled for repayment over a period of 38 years. Payments will be determined by bond counsel with semi-annual payments of interest and annual payments of principal. The interest will be the rate of 2.8750%. The precise payment amount will be based on the interest rate at which the loan is closed.

The payment due date will be established as the day that the loan closes. Due dates falling on the 29th, 30th, and 31st day of the month will be avoided.

6. **Security** – The loan will be secured by a General Obligation Bond(s) with first lien position in the amount of \$20,000,000, loan #01 \$9,900,000; loan #02 \$9,500,000; loan #03 \$600,000. The bonds will be fully registered as to both principal and interest in the name of the United States of America, Acting through Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture. *Statutory Installment Bond will be provided as security for the loan, as allowable under NYS Local Finance Laws.*

The bond and any ordinance or resolution relating thereto must not contain any provision in conflict with the Agency Loan Resolution, applicable regulations, or its authorizing law. In particular, there must be no defeasance or refinancing clause in conflict with the graduation requirements of 7 U.S.C. 1983.

The maximum amount of the grant will be \$11,140,000. Additional security requirements are contained in RUS Bulletin 1780-27, “Loan Resolution and RUS Bulletin 1780-12, “Water and Waste System Grant Agreement”. A draft of all security instruments, including draft bond resolution, must be reviewed, and concurred in by the Agency prior to advertising for bids. Bond/loan resolutions must be duly adopted and executed prior to loan closing.

The Grant Agreement will be executed prior to the first disbursement of grant funds. The grantee understands that any property acquired or improved with Federal grant funds may have use and disposition conditions which apply to the property as provided by 2 CFR part 200 in effect at this time and as may be subsequently modified. The grantee understands that any sale or transfer of property is subject to the interest of the United States Government in the market value in proportion to its participation the project.

7. **Reserves** – Reserves must be properly budgeted and set aside to maintain the financial viability and sustainability of any operation. Reserves are important to fund unanticipated emergency repairs, to assist with debt service should the need arise, and for the replacement of assets which have a useful life less than the repayment period of the loan. The following reserves are required to be established as a condition of this loan:

- a. **Short-Lived Asset Reserve** – You must establish a short-lived asset reserve fund. Based on the PER, you must deposit at least \$0 into the short-lived asset reserve fund annually for the life of the loan to pay for repairs and/or replacement of major system assets. It is your responsibility to assess your facility’s short-lived asset needs on a regular basis and adjust the amount deposited to meet those needs.

SECTION III –REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO ADVERTISING FOR BIDS

8. **Organization** – The Bond Counsel transcripts of proceedings must show that your organization is a duly incorporated public body and has continued legal existence. Your organization must have the authority to own, construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facility, as well as for borrowing money, pledging security and raising revenues.
9. **Suspension and Debarment Screening** – You will be asked to provide information on the principals of your organization. Agency staff must conduct screening for suspension and debarment of the entity, as well as its principals through the Do Not Pay Portal.
 - a. Principal –
 - a. An officer, director, owner, partner, principal investigator, or other person within a participant with management or supervisory responsibilities related to a covered transaction; or
 - b. A consultant or other person, whether or not employed by the participant or paid with federal funds, who –
 - i. Is in a position to handle federal funds;
 - ii. Is in a position to influence or control the use of those funds; or,
 - iii. Occupies a technical or professional position capable of substantially influencing the development or outcome of an activity required to perform the covered transaction. (2 CFR §180.995)
10. **Environmental Requirements** –At the conclusion of the proposal’s environmental review process, specific action(s) were determined necessary to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts. As outlined in the Environmental Report (ER) dated June 2023, the following action is required for successful completion of the project and must be adhered to during project design and construction:

The project, as proposed, has been evaluated to be consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act. Other Federal, State, tribal, and local laws, regulations and/or permits may apply or be required. If the project or any project element deviates from or is modified from the originally approved project, additional environmental review may be required.

The Contract Documents for construction shall include a standard USDA RD inadvertent discovery provision, developed in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13(b) and (c), as a condition of obligation in order to address any historic properties which might be inadvertently discovered or affected during project construction.

This project has applied the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement Among the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Programs, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for Sequencing Section 106 (NPA). This agreement allows the Agency to obligate funds prior to the completion of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Agreement stipulates, among other things, that the Section 106 process must be complete prior to the awarding of funds and prior to construction. Rural Development is in receipt of your signed NPA Awareness Certification form. In the Awareness Certification, you have acknowledged your awareness of these and other requirements and have agreed that you must complete the Section 106 process before the environmental review component of your application can be finalized and before construction. These historic preservation requirements must be met prior to final approval and prior to taking any action that would have an adverse effect on historic properties or hinder completion of the consultation process required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Do not initiate any type of ground disturbing activity, enter into construction contracts, initiate construction, rehabilitation, or purchase land or equipment prior to receiving notification from the Agency that these requirements have been met. Taking any of these actions prior to completion of the required reviews could result in loss of program funds.

USDA RD has utilized the NPA for Section 106 - Historic Preservation. Until Sec. 106 is concluded by USDA RD, project construction shall not be initiated, as noted in the letter of conditions.

11. **Engineering Services** – You have been required to complete an Agreement for Engineering Services, which should consist of the Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC) documents as indicated in RUS Bulletin 1780-26, “Guidance for the Use of EJCDC Documents on Water and Waste Projects with RUS Financial Assistance,” or other approved form of agreement. The Agency will provide concurrence prior to advertising for bids and must approve any modifications to this agreement.
12. **Contract Documents, Final Plans, and Specifications-** All development will be completed by contract in accordance with applicable provisions of RUS Instruction 1780, Subpart C – Planning, Designing, Bidding, Contracting, Constructing and Inspections, (copy available upon request), and in compliance with all statutory requirements. You are responsible to share this with your engineer before pre-design.
 - a. The plans and specifications and all proposals required by law must be approved by NYS Department of Health
 - b. In preparing final design and providing service to the planned project area, you and your engineer will comply with all zoning and planning requirements of the appropriate governing bodies where service is to be provided.
 - c. The Agency will need to concur in the plans and specifications prior to advertising for bids. The Agency may require an updated cost estimate if a significant amount of time has elapsed between the original project cost estimate and advertising for bids.

- d. The use of any procurement method other than competitive sealed bids must be requested in writing and approved by the Agency.
- e. The contract documents must consist of the EJCDC construction contract documents as indicated in RUS Bulletin 1780-26 or other Agency-approved forms of agreement.
- f. All new above-ground structures, fully or partially enclosed, used or intended for sheltering persons or property, shall be designed with the appropriate seismic safety provisions in compliance with the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the Uniform Code) and Rural Development implementing regulations for seismic safety (7 CFR Part 1792, Subpart C).

For each applicable structure, borrowers and grant recipients must provide RUS a written acknowledgment from a registered architect or engineer responsible for the design stating that seismic provisions pursuant to 7 CFR 1792 and the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the Uniform Code) will be used in the design of the structure. This acknowledgement shall be on the title page of the Drawings included with the final Drawings and Specifications and shall include the identification and date of the model code or standard that is used in the seismic design of the structure. The Drawings and Specifications must be dated, signed, and sealed by a registered architect or engineer. If this requirement shall be made part of the Contractor's submittals, then NY RD certification form will be provided for their completion and submission.

- g. Other Code Requirements - All new structures in the State of New York shall be in accordance with the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the Uniform Code), latest revision, the Uniform Energy Conservation Construction Code, latest revision, the New York State Supplements latest additions and applicable federal, state and local laws, codes, and regulations. The applicant is responsible for providing the required certifications and Building Permits.
 - h. All Rural Development funded construction projects require prevailing New York State Wage Rates. Any construction contract requiring Federal Wage Rates (For ARC, HUD, or EDA, etc.) must include the Labor Standards Provision 29 CFR 5.5
13. **Build America, Buy America (BABAA) Requirements-** Recipients of an award of Federal financial assistance from a program for infrastructure are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:
- a. all iron and steel permanently installed in the project are produced in the United States-- this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;
 - b. all manufactured products permanently installed in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the

minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and

- c. all construction materials permanently installed are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States.

The BABAA requirement applies to the entirety of an infrastructure project even if only a portion of the project is funded by Federal funds.

The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

Waivers

When necessary, recipients may apply for, and the agency may grant, a waiver from these requirements. The agency should notify the recipient for information on the process for requesting a waiver from these requirements.

When the Federal agency has made a determination that one of the following exceptions applies, the awarding official may waive the application of the domestic content procurement preference in any case in which the agency determines that:

- a. applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest;
- b. the types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or
- c. the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

A request to waive the application of the domestic content procurement preference must be in writing. The agency will provide instructions on the format, contents, and supporting materials required for any waiver request. Waiver requests are subject to public comment periods of no less than 15 days and must be reviewed by the Made in America Office.

Definitions

“Construction materials” includes an article, material, or supply—other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives—that is or consists primarily of:

- non-ferrous metals;
- plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables);
- glass (including optic glass);
- lumber; or
- drywall.

“Domestic content procurement preference” means all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States; the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; or the construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.

“Infrastructure” includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States, roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property. Infrastructure includes facilities that generate, transport, and distribute energy.

“Project” means the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States.

Owners are ultimately responsible for compliance with the evidence standards as outlined in the Build America Buy America (BABAA) appendix to this Letter. Owners are required to maintain records as specified in their loan or grant agreement, but in all cases, they should maintain records for a minimum of three years after the final expenditure report. Minimum records include certifications from manufacturers, the architect/engineer, and the prime contractor. Supporting documentation includes purchasing records and notes and photos taken by the Resident Project Representative (RPR). Further guidance regarding certifications will be provided by the Agency.

14. **Legal Services** – A legal services agreement is required with your attorney and bond counsel, if applicable, for any legal work needed in connection with this project. The agreement should stipulate an hourly rate for the work, with a “not to exceed” amount for the services, including reimbursable expenses. RUS Bulletin 1780-7, “Legal Services Agreement,” or similar format may be used. The Agency will provide concurrence prior to advertising for bids. Any changes to the fees or services spelled out in the original agreement must be reflected in an amendment to the agreement and have prior Agency concurrence.

15. **Property Rights** -- Prior to advertising for bids, you and your legal counsel must furnish satisfactory evidence that you have adequate continuous and valid control over the lands and rights-of-way needed for the project. Acquisitions of necessary land and rights must be accomplished in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act. Such control over the lands and rights will be evidenced by the following:
- a. **Right-of-Way Map** – Your engineer will provide a map clearly showing the location of all lands and rights-of-way needed for the project. The map must designate public and private lands and rights and the appropriate legal ownership thereof.
 - b. **Form RD 442-20, “Right-of-Way Easement”** – This form, or similar format, may be used to obtain any necessary easements for the proposed project.
 - c. **Form RD 442-21, “Right-of-Way Certificate”** – You will provide a certification on this form that all right-of-way requirements have been obtained for the proposed project.
 - d. **Form RD 442-22, “Opinion of Counsel Relative to Rights-of-Way”** – Your attorney will provide a certification and legal opinion on this form addressing rights-of-way, easements, and title.
 - e. **Certificate as to Title to Project Site** - Title to land essential to the successful operation of facilities or title to facilities being purchased, must not contain any restrictions that will adversely affect the suitability, successful operation, security value, or transferability of the facility. The Certificate must be completed by your Attorney and submitted to the local office for review.

The approving official may waive title defects or restrictions, such as utility easements, that do not adversely affect the suitability, successful operation, security value, or transferability of the facility. Any such waivers must be provided by the approving official in writing prior to closing or the start of construction, whichever occurs first.

You are responsible for the acquisition of all property rights necessary for the project and for determining that prices paid are reasonable and fair. The Agency may require an appraisal by an independent appraiser or Agency employee in order to validate the price to be paid.

16. **System Policies, Procedures, Contracts, and Agreements** – The facility must be operated on a sound business plan which involves adopting policies, procedures, and/or ordinances outlining the conditions of service and use of the proposed system. Mandatory connection policies should be used where enforceable. The policies, procedures, and/or ordinances must contain an effective collection policy for accounts not paid in full within a specified number of days after the date of billing. They should include appropriate late fees, specified timeframes for disconnection of service, and reconnection fees. A draft of these policies, procedures, and/or ordinances must be submitted for Agency review and concurrence, along with the documents below, before closing instructions may be issued unless otherwise stated.

- a. **Conflict of Interest Policy** – Prior to obligation of funds, you must certify in writing that your organization has in place up-to-date written standards of conduct covering conflict of interest. The standards of conduct must include disciplinary actions in the event of a violation by officers, employees, or agents of the borrower. The standards identified herein apply to any parent, affiliate or subsidiary organization of the borrower that is not a state or local government, or Indian Tribe. Policies and accompanying documents shall be furnished to Rural Development upon request.

You must also submit a disclosure of planned or potential transactions related to the use of Federal funds that may constitute or present the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest. Disclosure must be in the form of a written letter signed and dated by the applicant's official. A negative disclosure in the same format is required if no conflicts are anticipated.

Sample conflict of interest policies may be found at the National Council of Nonprofits website, <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/conflict-of-interest>, or in Internal Revenue Service Form 1023, Appendix A, "Sample Conflict of Interest Policy," at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1023.pdf>. Though these examples reference non-profit corporations, the requirement applies to all types of Agency borrowers.

Assistance in developing a conflict of interest policy is available through Agency-contracted technical assistance providers if desired.

- b. **Water Purchase Contract** – You propose to purchase water services from LCWSA. This purchase arrangement must be evidenced by a water purchase contract. A draft of the proposed contract must be submitted to the Agency for review and concurrence prior to advertising for bids. The draft contract must meet the requirements of RUS Instruction 1780.62.
- c. **Water User Agreement** – Projects with individual users outside of the municipality will require users to execute a Water Users Agreement. The draft agreement must receive RD concurrence prior to advertising for bids. RUS Bulletin 1780-9, "Water Users Agreement," or similar format may be used.
- d. **Contracts for Other Services/Lease Agreement** – Drafts of any contracts or other forms of agreements for other services, including audit, management, operation, and maintenance, or lease agreements covering real property essential to the successful operation of the facility, must be submitted to the Agency for review and concurrence prior to advertising for bids.
- e. **Parity/Intercreditor Agreement** – Projects with parity liens must have in place a written agreement between the parity lenders. The draft agreement must receive Agency concurrence prior to advertising for bids.

- f. **Other agreements** with governments or other entities regarding joint operation of facilities, granting authority to Agency borrower for providing service within another entity's service area, etc. The draft agreement must receive Agency concurrence prior to advertising for bids.

Fully executed copies of any policies, procedures, ordinances, contracts, or agreements must be submitted prior to loan closing, with the exception of the conflict of interest policy, which must be in place prior to obligation of funds.

17. **Closing Instructions** – The Agency will prepare closing instructions as soon as the requirements of the previous paragraphs are complete, as well as a draft of the security instrument(s). *Closing instructions must be obtained prior to advertising for bids.* The applicant must retain the services of a recognized bond counsel to prepare bonding documents and issue the required opinions. Both your bond and legal counsel must comply with these instructions when closing the Agency loan/grant.
- a. **Preliminary Opinion** – Bond Counsel must issue a preliminary opinion that the applicant is legally organized and that all requirements of New York Law have been complied with to date. The opinion must be accompanied by the proposed form of the bond, proposed form of details resolution, a copy of the Bond Resolution, and the proposed form of final approving opinion. Rural Development must receive written closing instructions from the Office of the General Counsel, USDA, prior to the award of contracts or commencement of construction.
 - b. **Final Opinion** – Bond Counsel will be required to prepare final closing documents, including final draft of the bond, proposed maturity schedule, final draft of details resolution, and final approving opinion for authorization by Rural Development to close. The final opinion must be an unqualified opinion on the legality of the bonds to be issued.
 - c. **Closing** – The loan will be closed by the municipal attorney using instructions issued by Bond Counsel, OGC, and USDA Rural Development.
18. **System Users** – This letter of conditions is based upon your indication at application that there will be at least 596 residential users, 40 non-residential users, and 0 bulk / wholesale users on the proposed system when construction is completed.

Before the Agency can agree to the project being advertised for construction bids, you must certify that the number of users indicated at application are currently using the system or signed up to use the system once it is operational.

If the actual number of existing and/or proposed users that have signed up for service is less than the number indicated at the time of application, you must provide the Agency with a written plan on how you will obtain the necessary revenue to adequately cash flow the expected operation, maintenance, debt service, and reserve requirements of the proposed project (e.g., increase user rates, sign up an adequate number of other users, reduce project scope, etc.). Similar action is

required if there is cause to modify the anticipated flows or volumes presented following approval.

If you are relying on mandatory connection requirements, you must provide evidence of the authorizing ordinance or statute along with your user certification.

If you are not relying on mandatory connection requirements, the following items apply:

- a. **Positive Program to Encourage Connections** – You must provide a positive program to encourage connection by all users as soon as service is available. The program will be reviewed by the Agency prior to advertising for bids. A guide for developing your positive program is available from the Agency.
 - b. **Water User Agreements** – Individual users outside of the municipality will be required to execute a Water Users Agreement prior to advertising for construction bids. The amount of cash contributions required will be set by you and concurred with by the Agency. Contributions should be an amount high enough to indicate sincere interest on the part of the potential user, but not so high as to preclude service to low income families and have a deadline for the contribution to be used or forfeited. RUS Bulletin 1780-9, “Water Users Agreement,” or similar agreement may be used.
 - c. **Service Declination Statement** – Each potential user who is located along planned lines and declines the offered service will be provided an opportunity to sign a “Service Declination Statement.”
19. **Construction Account** – A separate construction account is not required for project funds. However, the recipient must be able to separately identify, report and account for all Federal funds, including the receipt, obligation and expenditure of funds, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.305. These funds must be deposited in a bank with Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance coverage. **If the balances at the financial institution where federal funds will be deposited exceeds the FDIC insurance coverage, the excess amount must be collaterally secured up to 100 percent of the highest amount of funds expected to be deposited in the account at any one time, per the Department of Treasury regulations and requirements.**
20. **Interim Financing** – The Agency’s policy is to utilize interim financing for all loans. Prepayment penalties on interim financing are not allowed. Borrowers are required to seek interim financing initially from private or cooperative lenders if funds can be borrowed at reasonable interest rates on an interim basis from those sources for the construction period. The fact that a commercial lender’s rates are higher than current Agency interest rates does not necessarily mean that the commercial rate is not reasonable.

21. **Proposed Operating Budget** – You must establish and/or maintain a rate schedule that provides adequate income to meet the minimum requirements for operation and maintenance (O and M), debt service, and reserves. Prior to advertising for bids, you must submit a proposed annual operating budget to the Agency, as well as your proposed rate schedule. The operating budget should be based on a typical year cash flow after completion of the construction phase and should be signed by the appropriate official of your organization. Form RD 442-7, “Operating Budget,” or similar format may be utilized for this purpose. It is expected that O and M expenses will change over each successive year and user rates will need to be adjusted on a regular basis.

Technical assistance is available at no cost to help you evaluate and complete a rate analysis on your system. This assistance is available free to your organization. If you are interested, please contact our office for information.

22. **Permits** –The owner or responsible party will be required to obtain all applicable permits for the project, prior to advertising for bids. The consulting engineer must submit written evidence that all applicable permits required prior to construction have been obtained with submission to the Agency of the final plans, specifications, and bid documents.

A copy of the NYS Department of Health approval of the final plans and specifications must be provided to the Agency. This approval must state that the system, as improved, will comply with the requirements of USEPA PL93-523 and Part 5 of the NYS Sanitary Code. If the proposal is to develop or enlarge a source of water, the applicant must obtain approval of NYS DEC under ECL Article 15.

23. **Risk and Resilience Assessment/Emergency Response Plan (RRA/ERP)** – The Agency requires all financed water and wastewater systems to have an RRA/ERP in place. New water or wastewater systems must provide a certification that an ERP is complete prior to the start of operation, and a certification that an RRA is complete must be submitted within one year of the start of operation. Borrowers with existing systems must provide a certification that an RRA/ERP has been completed prior to advertising for bids. Technical assistance is available in preparing these documents at no cost to you.

Before funds are drawn, you should have in place a cybersecurity plan, a supply chain plan, and a plan to comply with cybersecurity requirements of the National Institute of Science and Technology and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Administration. These items should be addressed in the RRA/ERP.

The RRA/ERP documents themselves are not submitted to the Agency. The RRA/ERP must address potential impacts from natural disasters and other emergency events. It should include plans to address impacts of flash flooding in areas where severe drought or wildfires occur. The documents should be reviewed and updated every five years at a minimum.

24. **Bid Authorization** - Once all the conditions outlined in Section III of this letter have been met, the Agency will authorize you to advertise the project for construction bids. Such advertisement must be in accordance with applicable State statutes.

SECTION IV - REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO START OF CONSTRUCTION

25. **Disbursement of Agency Funds** - Agency funds will be disbursed electronically into the construction account as they are needed. SF 3881, "ACH Vendor/Miscellaneous Payment Enrollment Form," must be completed and submitted to the Agency prior to commencement of construction.

The order of disbursement is as follows: 1) Applicant contribution, 2) other funding sources, 3) interim financing or Agency loan funds, and 4) Agency grant funds. Interim financing or Agency loan funds will be expended after all other funding sources unless a written agreement is reached with all other funding sources on how funds are to be disbursed prior the first disbursement. Interim financing funds or Agency loan funds must be used prior to the use of Agency grant funds. Agency Grant funds must not be disbursed prior to loan funds except as authorized in 7 CFR 1780.45(d).

Grant funds are to be deposited in an interest-bearing account (exception provided below) in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 and interest in excess of \$500 per year remitted to the Agency. The funds should be disbursed by the recipient immediately upon receipt, and there should be little interest accrual on the Federal funds. Recipients shall maintain advances of Federal funds in interest-bearing accounts, unless:

- The recipient receives less than \$120,000 in Federal awards per year.
- The best reasonably available interest-bearing account would not be expected to earn interest in excess of \$500 per year on Federal cash balances.
- The depository would require an average or minimum balance so high that it would not be feasible within the expected Federal and non-Federal cash resources.
- A foreign government or banking system prohibits or precludes interest-bearing accounts.

26. **Bid Tabulation** – Immediately after bid opening, you must provide the Agency with the bid tabulation and your engineer's evaluation of bids and recommendations for contract awards. If the Agency agrees that the construction bids received are acceptable, adequate funds are available to cover the total project costs, and all the requirements of Section III of this letter have been satisfied, the Agency will authorize you to issue the Notice of Award.

- a. **Cost Overruns** – If bids are higher than expected, or if unexpected construction problems are encountered, you must utilize all options to reduce cost overruns. Negotiations, redesign, use of bidding alternatives, rebidding or other means will be

considered prior to commitment of subsequent funding by the Agency. Any requests for subsequent funding to cover cost overruns will be contingent on the availability of funds. Cost overruns exceeding 20 percent of the development cost at time of loan or grant approval or where the scope of the original purpose has changed will compete for funds with all other applications on hand as of that date.

- b. **Excess Funds** - If bids are lower than anticipated at time of obligation, excess funds must be deobligated prior to start of construction except in the cases addressed in this paragraph. In cases where the original PER for the project included items that were not bid, or were bid as an alternate, the State Office official may modify the project to fully utilize obligated funds for those items. Amendments to the PER, ER, and Letter of Conditions may be needed for any work not included in the original project scope. In all cases, prior to start of construction, excess funds will be deobligated, with grant funds being deobligated first. Excess funds do not include contingency funds as described in this letter.

27. **Suspension and Debarment Screening** – In accordance with 2 CFR Part 180, Subpart C, as a condition of the transaction and the responsibilities to persons at the next lower tier with whom you enter into transactions, you must conduct screening for suspension and debarment of lower tier recipients (e.g., vendors, contractors, etc.).
28. **Contract Review** – Your attorney will certify that the executed contract documents, including performance and payment bonds, if required, are adequate and that the persons executing these documents have been properly authorized to do so in accordance with 7 CFR 1780.61(b).

Once your attorney has certified that they are acceptable, the contract documents will be submitted to the Agency for concurrence. Construction cannot commence until the Agency has concurred in the construction contracts.

29. **Final Rights of Way** – Your attorney or title company must furnish a separate final title opinion or Title Insurance Policy on all real property related to the facility, now owned and to be acquired for this project, as of the day of loan closing or start of construction, whichever occurs first. Form RD 1927-10, “Final Title Opinion” may be used.

If any of the right-of-way forms listed previously in this letter contain exceptions that do not adversely affect the suitability, successful operation, security value, or transferability of the facility, the approving official must provide a written waiver prior to the issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

30. **Insurance and Bonding Requirements - Prior to the start of construction or loan closing**, whichever occurs first, you must acquire and submit to the Agency proof of the types of insurance and bond coverage for the borrower shown below. The use of deductibles may be allowed, providing you have the financial resources to cover potential claims requiring payment of the deductible. The Agency strongly recommends that you have your engineer, attorney, and insurance provider(s) review proposed types and amounts of

coverage, including any exclusions and deductible provisions. It is your responsibility and not that of the Agency to assure that adequate insurance and fidelity bond coverage is maintained.

- a. **General Liability Insurance** – Include vehicular coverage.
- b. **Workers' Compensation** – In accordance with appropriate State laws.
- c. **Guaranty or Fidelity Insurance**—Coverage for all persons who have access to funds, including persons working under a contract or management agreement. Coverage may be provided either for all individual positions or persons, or through “blanket” coverage providing protection for all appropriate employees. Each position is to be insured in an amount equal to the maximum amount of funds expected to be under the control of that position at any one time. The minimum coverage allowed will be an amount equal to the total annual debt service payment on the Agency loans. The coverage may be increased during construction based on the anticipated monthly advances.
- d. **National Flood Insurance** - If the project involves acquisition or construction in a designated special flood area, the community in which the acquisition or construction is situated must be currently participating in the national flood insurance program. Additionally, if the project involves acquisition or construction in designated special flood or mudslide prone areas, a flood insurance policy must be in place at the time of loan closing.
- e. **Real Property Insurance** – Fire and extended coverage will normally be maintained on all structures except reservoirs, pipelines and other structures if such structures are not normally insured, and subsurface lift stations except for the value of electrical and pumping equipment. The Agency will be listed as mortgagee on the policy when the Agency has a lien on the property. Prior to the acceptance of the facility from the contractor(s), you must obtain real property insurance (fire and extended coverage) on all facilities identified above.

The Agency is to be listed as “Other Insured” so as to receive notifications on all insurance, regardless of security. Insurance types described above are required to be continued throughout the life of the loan. See Section VII.

31. **Initial Compliance Review** – The Agency will conduct an initial civil rights compliance review of the borrower prior to loan closing or start of construction, whichever occurs first, in accordance with 7 CFR 1901, Subpart E. You are expected to comply with the completion of the review, including the furnishing of any documents, records, or other applicable material.

SECTION V – REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO CLOSING

32. **Interim Financing** - Interim financing is being used. Generally, loan closing will occur near the end of construction when interim funds are fully disbursed. Documents detailed above from Sections II and III regarding security, electronic payments (Form 3550-28), and system policies, procedures, contracts, and agreements must be adopted and/or executed and submitted to the Agency prior to loan closing.
33. **Electronic Payments** – Payments will be made through an electronic preauthorized debit system. You will be required to complete Form RD 3550-28, “Authorization Agreement for Preauthorized Payments,” for all new and existing indebtedness to the Agency prior to loan closing.
34. **Other Requirements** – All requirements contained in the Agency’s closing instructions, as well as any requirements of your bond counsel and/or attorney, must be met prior to loan closing.
- a. **System for Award Management**. You will be required to maintain a Unique Entity ID (UEI) and maintain an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) database. Renewal can be completed online at: <http://sam.gov>. This registration must be renewed and revalidated every 12 months for as long as there is an active loan, grant, or guaranteed loan with the Agency.

To ensure the information is current, accurate and complete, and to prevent the SAM account expiration, the review and updates must be performed within 365 days of the activation date, commonly referred to as the expiration date. The registration process may take up to 10 business days. (See 2 CFR Part 25 and the “Help” section at <http://sam.gov>).

- b. **Litigation**. You are required to notify the Agency within 30 days of receiving notification of being involved in any type of litigation prior to loan closing or start of construction, whichever occurs first. Additional documentation regarding the situation and litigation may be requested by the Agency.
- c. **Certified Operator**. Evidence must be provided that your system has or will have a certified operator, as defined by applicable State or Federal requirements, available prior to the system becoming operational, or that a suitable supervisory agreement with a certified operator is in effect.

SECTION VI – REQUIREMENTS DURING CONSTRUCTION AND POST CONSTRUCTION

35. **Construction Completion Timeframe** –All projects should be completed, and Agency funds *fully disbursed within three years of the date of obligation*. If funds are not disbursed within three years of obligation and you have not already done so per Section I, Item 4, you must submit a written request for extension of time to the Agency with adequate justification of the circumstances, including any beyond your control. The request must be submitted at least 90 days prior to the end of the three-year timeframe and include a revised estimated date of completion. The Agency will typically only allow one extension. Subsequent requests for waivers beyond the initial extension or requests that exceed five years from the initial date of obligation will be submitted to the RUS, Water and Environmental Programs for consideration. The Agency retains the right to de-obligate any loan and/or grant monies, or take other appropriate action, related to unliquidated funds that exceed the timeframes above and are not under an active extension.
36. **Resident Inspector(s)** – Full-time inspection is required unless you request an exception. Such requests must be made in writing and the Agency must provide written concurrence. Inspection services are to be provided by the consulting engineer unless other arrangements are requested in writing and concurred with by the Agency. A resume of qualifications of any resident inspector(s) will be submitted to the owner and Agency for review and concurrence prior to the pre-construction conference. The resident inspector(s) must attend the preconstruction conference.
37. **Preconstruction Conference** – A preconstruction conference will be held prior to the issuance of the Notice to Proceed. The consulting engineer will review the planned development with the Agency, owner, resident inspector, attorney, contractor, other funders, and other interested parties, and will provide minutes of this meeting to the owner and Agency.
38. **Inspections** - The Agency requires a preconstruction conference, pre-final, final, and warranty inspections. Your engineer will schedule a warranty inspection with the contractor and the Agency before the end of the one-year warranty period to address and/or resolve any outstanding warranty issues. The Agency will conduct an inspection with you of your records management system at the same time and will continue to inspect the facility and your records system every three years for the life of the loan. See Section VII of this letter.
39. **Change Orders** – A Change Order must be submitted for all modifications to the approved scope of work, including existing contracts. This includes non-physical modifications such as any time extension requests. Prior written Agency concurrence is required for all Change Orders.

40. **Payments** – Prior Agency concurrence is required for all invoices and requests for payment before Agency funds will be released. Requests for payment related to a contract or service agreement will be signed by the owner, project engineer, and contractor or service provider prior to Agency concurrence. Invoices not related to a construction contract or service agreement will include the owner’s written concurrence.
41. **Use of Remaining Funds** – As stated above, applicant contribution and connection or tap fees will be the first funds expended in the project. Funds remaining after all costs incident to the basic project have been paid or provided will be handled as follows:
- a. Funds remaining after the applicant contribution and connection fees may be considered in direct proportion to the amounts of funding obtained from each source. The use of Agency funding will be limited to eligible loan and grant purposes, provided the use will not result in major changes to the original scope of work and the purpose of the loan and grant remains the same.
 - b. Any reductions in the Agency funding will be first applied to the grant funds.
 - c. Grant funds not expended for authorized purposes will be cancelled (de-obligated) within 90 days of final completion of project. Prior to actual cancellation, you will be notified of the Agency’s intent to cancel the remaining funds.
 - d. Under no circumstances is it appropriate to use remaining funds as contributions to a new project outside the scope of the funded project.
 - e. Loan funds that are not needed will be cancelled (de-obligated) prior to loan closing.
42. **Technical, Managerial and Financial Capacity** - It is required that members of the Board of Directors, City Council members, trustees, commissioners and other governing members possess the necessary technical, managerial, and financial capacity skills to consistently comply with pertinent Federal and State laws and requirements. It is recommended members receive training within one year of appointment or election to the governing board, and a refresher training for all governing members on a routine basis. The content and amount of training should be tailored to the needs of the individual and the utility system. Technical assistance providers are available to provide this training for your organization, often at no cost. Contact the Agency for additional information.
43. **Reporting Requirements Related to Expenditure of Funds** -- An annual audit under 2 CFR 200 is required if you expend \$750,000 or more in Federal financial assistance per fiscal year. The total Federal funds expended from all sources shall be used to determine Federal financial assistance expended. Expenditures of interim financing are considered Federal expenditures.

All audits are to be performed in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200, as adopted by USDA through 2 CFR Part 400. Further guidance on preparing an acceptable audit can be obtained from the Agency. The audit must be prepared by an independent licensed Certified Public Accountant, or a State or Federal auditor if allowed by State law and must be submitted within 9 months of your fiscal year end. Both the audit and accompanying management report must be submitted for review.

If an audit is required, you must enter into a written agreement with the auditor and submit a copy of that agreement to the Agency prior to the advertisement of construction bids. The audit agreement may include terms and conditions that the borrower and auditor deem appropriate; however, the agreement should include the type of audit to be completed, the time frame in which the audit will be completed, and how irregularities will be reported.

SECTION VII – SERVICING REQUIREMENTS DURING THE TERM OF THE LOAN

44. **Prepayment and Extra Payments** - Prepayments of scheduled installments, or any portion thereof, may be made at any time at the option of borrower, with no penalty.

Security instruments, including bonding documents, must contain the following language regarding extra payments, unless prohibited by State statute:

Prepayments of scheduled installments, or any portion thereof, may be made at any time at the option of borrower. Refunds, extra payments and loan proceeds obtained from outside sources for the purpose of paying down the Agency debt, shall, after payment of interest, be applied to the installments last to become due under this note and shall not affect the obligation of borrower to pay the remaining installments as scheduled in your security instruments.

45. **Annual Financial Reporting/Audit Requirements** – You are required to submit an annual financial report at the end of each fiscal year. The annual report will be certified by the appropriate organization official, and will consist of financial information, a current rate schedule, and listing of board members with their terms. Financial statements must be prepared on an accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The annual report will include separate reporting for each water and waste disposal facility, and itemized cash accounts by type (debt service, short-lived assets, etc.) under each facility. All records, books and supporting material are to be retained for three years after the issuance of the annual report. Technical assistance is available, at no cost, with preparing financial reports.

The type of financial information that must be submitted is specified below:

- a. **Audits** – An audit under the Single Audit Act is required if you expend \$750,000 or more in Federal financial assistance per fiscal year. The total Federal funds expended from all sources shall be used to determine Federal financial assistance expended. Expenditures of interim financing are considered Federal expenditures.

See Section VI for additional information regarding audits.

- b. **Financial Statements** – If you expend less than \$750,000 in Federal financial assistance per fiscal year, you may submit financial statements in lieu of an audit which include, at a minimum, a balance sheet and an income and expense statement. You may use Form RD 442-2, “Statement of Budget, Income and Equity,” and 442-3, “Balance Sheet,” or similar format to provide the financial information. The financial statements must be signed by the appropriate borrower official and submitted within 60 days of your fiscal year end.
- c. **Quarterly Reports** – Quarterly Income and Expense Statements will be required until the processing office waives this requirement. You may use Form RD 442-2, “Statement of Budget, Income and Equity,” or similar format to provide this information. The reports are to be signed by the appropriate borrower official and submitted within 30 days of each quarter’s end. The Agency will notify you in writing when quarterly reports are no longer required.

46. **Annual Budget and Projected Cash Flow** - Thirty days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, you will be required to submit an annual budget and projected cash flow to this office. The budget must be signed by the appropriate borrower official. Form RD 442-2, “Statement of Budget, Income and Equity,” or similar format may be used.

Technical assistance is available at no cost to help you evaluate and complete a rate analysis on your system, as well as completing the annual budget.

47. **Graduation** - By accepting this loan, you are also agreeing to refinance (graduate) the unpaid loan balance in whole, or in part, upon request of the Government. If at any time the Agency determines you can obtain a loan for such purposes from responsible cooperative or private sources at reasonable rates and terms, you will be requested to refinance. Your ability to refinance will be assessed every other year for those loans that are five years old or older.
48. **Security/Operational Inspections** – The Agency will inspect the facility and conduct a review of your operations and records management system and conflict of interest policy every three years for the life of the loan. You must participate in these inspections and provide the required information.

49. **System for Award Management**. You will be required to maintain a Unique Entity ID (UEI) and maintain an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) database. Further information can be found at paragraph 33 of this letter.
50. **Risk and Resiliency Assessment/Emergency Response Plan (RRA/ERP)** – The RRA/ERP is further outlined under Section III of this letter. You will be required to submit a certification to the servicing office every five years that the RRA/ERP is current and covers all sites related to the facility. The RRA/ERP documents themselves are not submitted to the Agency. The RRA/ERP must address potential impacts from natural disasters and other emergency events. It should include plans to address impacts of flash flooding in areas where severe drought or wildfires occur. Technical assistance is available in preparing these documents at no cost to you.
51. **Insurance**. – Insurance requirements are further outlined in Section IV of this letter. You will be required to maintain insurance on the facility and employees as previously described in this letter for the life of the loan.
52. **Statutory and National Policy Requirements** – As a recipient of Federal funding, you are required to comply with U.S. statutory and public policy requirements, including but not limited to:
 - a. **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973** – Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794), no handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely by reason of their handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Agency financial assistance.
 - b. **Civil Rights Act of 1964** – All borrowers are subject to, and facilities must be operated in accordance with, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and 7 CFR 1901, Subpart E, particularly as it relates to conducting and reporting of compliance reviews. Instruments of conveyance for loans and/or grants subject to the Act must contain the covenant required by Paragraph 1901.202(e) of this Title.
 - c. **The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990** – This Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, State and local government services, public transportation, public accommodations, facilities, and telecommunications.
 - d. **Age Discrimination Act of 1975** – This Act (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.) provides that no person in the United States shall on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

- e. **Limited English Proficiency (LEP) under Executive Order 13166** - LEP statutes and authorities prohibit exclusion from participation in, denial of benefits of, and discrimination under Federally-assisted and/or conducted programs on the ground of race, color, or national origin. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 covers program access for LEP persons. LEP persons are individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English. These individuals may be entitled to language assistance, free of charge. You must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons receive the language assistance necessary to have meaningful access to USDA programs, services, and information your organization provides. These protections are pursuant to Executive Order 13166 entitled, “Improving Access to Services by Persons with Limited English Proficiency” and further affirmed in the USDA Departmental Regulation 4330-005, “Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Persons with Limited English Proficiency in Programs and Activities Conducted by USDA.”
- f. **Controlled Substances Act** - Even though state law may allow some activities, as a recipient of Federal funding, you are subject to the Controlled Substances Act. Specific questions about the Controlled Substances Act should be directed to the Servicing Official who will contact the Office of General Counsel, as appropriate.

53. **Compliance Reviews and Data Collection** – Agency financial programs must be extended without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, age, or physical or mental handicap. You must display posters (provided by the Agency) informing users of these requirements, and the Agency will monitor your compliance with these requirements during regular compliance reviews.

The Agency will conduct regular compliance reviews of the borrower and its operation in accordance with 7 CFR Part 1901, Subpart E, and 36 CFR 1191, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities; Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Guidelines. Compliance reviews will typically be conducted in conjunction with the security inspections described in this letter.

If beneficiaries (users) are required to complete an application or screening for the use of the facility or service that you provide, you must request and collect data by race (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, White); ethnicity (Hispanic or Latino, Not Hispanic or Latino); and by sex. The Agency will utilize this data as part of the required compliance review.

SECTION VIII – REMEDIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Non-compliance with the conditions in this letter or requirements of your security documents will be addressed under the provisions of Agency regulations, statutes, and other applicable policies.

Please forward copies of this letter to your attorney, bond counsel, engineer, fiscal advisor, and accountant. We look forward to continuing working with you to complete this project and if you have any questions please contact Eric Joyce, Area Specialist at 585-343-9673 or by e-mail at eric.joyce@usda.gov .

Sincerely,

**BRENDA
SMITH** Digitally signed by
BRENDA SMITH
Date: 2023.09.11
16:06:58 -04'00'

BRENDA L. SMITH
Community Programs Director

cc: Eric Joyce, Area Specialist
Brian Murray, State Director
Renee Adams, Area Director
Casey Chamberlain, Area Director
Howard Kunz, Community Programs Specialist
Todd Loy, Community Programs Specialist
Tobra Vescio, Community Programs Specialist
Kim Wildman, Community Programs Specialist
John Helgren, P.E., State Engineer
Jessica Divens, State Engineer
Thomas Lacko, Environmental Protection Specialist
Harry Nelson, N.Y.S. Environmental Facilities Corporation
David Phillips, N.Y.S. Department of Health
Ashley Inerillo, N.Y.S Department of Health
Charlie Philion, NYS Homes & Community Renewal
Ben Mattison, NYS Homes & Community Renewal
Jamie Herman, New York Rural Water Association
Candace Balmer, RCAP Solutions
Catherine Rees, RCAP Solutions
Judy Littrell, N.Y.S. Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
Jennifer Wade, Office of the NYS Comptroller

FORMS and BULLETINS:

Form RD 442-2, "Statement of Budget, Income and Equity"
Form RD 442-3, "Balance Sheet"
Form RD 442-7, "Operating Budget"
Form RD 442-20, "Right-of-Way Easement"
Form RD 442-21, "Right-of-Way Certificate"
Form RD 442-22, "Opinion of Counsel Relative to Rights-of-Way"
Form RD 1940-1, "Request for Obligation of Funds"
Form RD 1942-46, "Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions"
Form RD 3550-28, "Authorization Agreement for Preauthorized Payments"
SF 3881, "ACH Vendor/Miscellaneous Payment Enrollment Form"
RUS Bulletin 1780-7, "Legal Services Agreement"
RUS Bulletin 1780-9, "Water Users Agreement"
RUS Bulletin 1780-12, "Water and Waste System Grant Agreement"
RUS Bulletin 1780-26, "Guidance for the Use of EJCDC Documents on Water and Waste
Projects with RUS Financial Assistance"
RUS Bulletin 1780-27, "Loan Resolution (Public Bodies)"

Appendix B

Build America, Buy America Evidence Standards

Manufacturers

For each item to which BABAA applies (every item permanently installed on the project, except for aggregate and aggregate binding materials), a manufacturer's certification letter or other document demonstrating compliance is required. It must, at a minimum, identify the item being certified (short written description as well as part number, if applicable) and affirm that the item complies with BABAA. This document must be signed by an authorized company representative.

Architects and Engineers

Compliance with BABAA will be spelled out in agreements for services, construction contracts, and procurement contracts. Generally, the A/E contract should include, as a basic service, obtaining and maintaining all BABAA documentation (particularly manufacturers' certifications) during construction, which shall be transferred to the Owner upon completion of the project. The architect or engineer will need to certify to this action at the project's end.

Resident Project Representative / Resident Inspector

As part of their duties, Resident Project Representative/Resident Inspector should be instructed to verify items delivered to the site and installed are accompanied by documentation of compliance with BABAA. They should photograph items as appropriate. RPR/RI daily logs and photographs will become part of the construction record and can be used as supporting information during audits, providing evidence for items that are buried or otherwise inaccessible.

Contractors

Construction contract(s) must include a requirement to procure and install only items that comply with BABAA or are subject to an approved waiver. Contractors must provide manufacturers' certifications for all BABAA compliant items to the responsible party before a request for reimbursement to the Agency is made. At completion, the contractor will be required to certify that all items used on the contract complied with BABAA and that all manufacturers' certifications were provided.