

September 5, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Gloria M. Shepherd, Executive Director  
Federal Highway Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE.  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: City of Los Angeles FHWA Culvert AOP Grant Application for the *Oro Vista Culvert Replacement at Big Tujunga Wash Southern Steelhead Passage Planning Project*

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Director Shepherd,

**COMPANY NAME** is pleased to support the City of Los Angeles, California's grant application for the *Oro Vista Culvert Replacement at Big Tujunga Wash Southern Steelhead Passage Planning Project*, which is being submitted to the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's FY 2023 National Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration (Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage) Grant Program.

This planning project will explore alternatives for replacing the culvert at Oro Vista Avenue to promote fish passage for the endangered southern steelhead species. This upstream location currently presents a significant barrier to aquatic connectivity between the Pacific Ocean and the southern steelhead's upstream spawning habitat. In addition to concerns for aquatic organism passage, local flood risk and the culvert's declining structural integrity warrant investigation into improving the infrastructure.

The Project will support NOAA's Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan that aims to recover anadromous steelhead and ensure the long-term persistence of self-sustaining wild populations of steelhead, and ultimately to remove the species from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. Southern steelhead runs have experienced sharp declines, and they are now the rarest and most critically endangered steelhead population on the West Coast.

**HOW THE PROJECT WILL BENEFIT OR AFFECT YOUR ORGANIZATION**

Identifying the best design solution for the culvert and conducting the necessary permitting and planning will further the City's progress towards project construction, which will benefit fish passage, reduce flood risks and improve transportation access for the area's communities. I urge you to consider the City's application to assist with funding this vital project.

Sincerely,  
**XXXXXXXX**