

# State of Mississippi TATE REEVES

October 31, 2022

The Honorable Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney Chairwoman, Comm. on Oversight and Reform 2308 Rayburn House Office Building United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rep. Bennie G. Thompson Chairman, Comm. on Homeland Security 2466 Rayburn House Office Building United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

## Re: Jackson Mississippi Water System

Dear Representative Maloney and Representative Thompson:

Thank you for your October 17, 2022, letter and your ongoing concern about the recent water crisis in the City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City"). Let me begin by stating my administration is deeply committed to ensuring that all federal funds received by Mississippi for drinking water systems upgrades have been in the past and will continue to be in the future made available and distributed among Mississippi's more than 1,100 water systems on an objective and race-neutral basis.

We are deeply grateful for the concern of both esteemed Representatives, and in particular share the concerns laid out by Chairman Thompson in his public messaging that the City is not capable of properly running its water system due to mismanagement at the local level. We noted and considered the Chairman's remarks that: "I would not be in favor of the City being given back the authority to run it... We want a system that meets federal and state regulations..."

As Chairman Thompson expressed to WJTV News, "I think it would be advantageous for the City to come up with a plan...I know there's a water problem with the City of Jackson, but nobody has shared the facts on the problem with me as one of the representatives as well as the cure or the plan for correcting it. So, as soon as that occurs, I think people will readily roll up their sleeves and do it... Produce that plan that we can begin to sell...I think just saying 'We need help' and not saying what that help entails is where the problem lies... When we don't see the plan for that investment, there is a reluctance to invest on it... You can't just say 'we need money.' You have to say, 'If we had this money, here are the steps based on the plan that we have adopted.' I think that gives confidence to anybody who would give money, that once that money is given it

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Rep. Bennie Thompson: Treat Jackson fairly, but if it can't run water system, let someone else, MISSISSIPPI TODAY (September 2, 2022) <a href="https://mississippitoday.org/2022/09/02/bennie-thompson-jackson-water-crisis/">https://mississippitoday.org/2022/09/02/bennie-thompson-jackson-water-crisis/</a>

would actually be spent for that purpose." This clearly articulates many of the shared challenges the state has had with efforts to assist Jackson political leadership in addressing their water issues.<sup>2</sup>

The City's water system consists of two water treatment plants, O.B. Curtis Water Treatment Plant and J.H. Fewell Water Treatment Plant. Fewell was constructed in or around 1914, with a current capacity of 20 million gallons a day. O.B. Curtis was constructed in two phases, with phase 1, a conventional filter system, constructed in or around 1992, and phase 2, a membrane filter system, constructed in or around 2007. O.B. Curtis has a capacity of 50 million gallons a day, with a capacity of 25 million gallons a day from each of its two systems.

For the past several years, state and federal regulators have been actively involved in enforcement efforts against the City relating to its mismanagement of the water system. Specifically, the Mississippi State Department of Health ("MSDH"), the state agency with primary jurisdiction over drinking water systems in Mississippi, began raising concern with the City in 2016. When the City ignored the actions of the MSDH, on February 28, 2020, MSDH requested the EPA to help address the City's non-compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.<sup>3</sup>

In April 2020, the EPA issued an Emergency Administrative Order requiring the City, among other action items, to "develop and implement a plan to address all monitoring equipment and appurtenant treatment equipment repairs and/or replacement." The Administrative Order was entered into "to address long-term challenges and make needed improvements to the drinking water system." The combined state and federal enforcement efforts ultimately culminated in a July 2021 Administrative Compliance Consent Order due to the City's ongoing non-compliance. Thereafter, despite agreeing to the EPA's objectives and timeline, receiving nearly \$28 million in available DWSRF funds, and a \$90 million legal settlement with a vendor (Siemens), little to no progress was made. As of last month, the City had still failed to produce a plan to identify and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Mississippi Insight, WJTV (August 21, 2022) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTjscKHkS-k

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See May 11, 2020, EPA Correspondence, at note 1, <a href="https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/may-11-2020-notice-of-noncompliance\_jackson.pdf">https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/may-11-2020-notice-of-noncompliance\_jackson.pdf</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> In the Matter of: City of Jackson Miss. United States Environmental Protection Agency, Dkt. No. SDWA-04-2020-2031, March 27, 2021 Emergency Admin. Order <a href="https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/march-27-2020-emergency-order\_jackson-final-signed.pdf">https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/march-27-2020-emergency-order\_jackson-final-signed.pdf</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> EPA and the City of Jackson, Mississippi Reach Agreement to Improve Drinking Water and Protect Public Health, UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, News Release, (July 1, 2021) <a href="https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-city-jackson-mississippi-reach-agreement-improve-drinking-water-and-protect">https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-city-jackson-mississippi-reach-agreement-improve-drinking-water-and-protect</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> In the Matter of: City of Jackson Miss. United States Environmental Protection Agency, Dkt. No. SDWA-04-2020-2031, July 21, 2022 Admin. Compliance Order on Consent, <a href="https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/city-of-jackson-aoc-executed-by-city.pdf">https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/city-of-jackson-aoc-executed-by-city.pdf</a>

address the priorities, the needs, or even the ball-park cost.<sup>7</sup> Nor, despite the identified critical need, were necessary steps taken to hire operators and staff.<sup>8</sup>

In fact, "EPA leadership warned that the City of Jackson has put no visible effort into hiring new employees," as reported by Mississippi Free Press. "We have not seen any evidence that (the City of Jackson) has tried to reach that labor pool," Carol Kemker, the director of the EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division stated publicly. "They could be reaching out to technical colleges, they could be holding recruitment events, they could be scheduling interviews, they could be putting in advertisements. (This is) what we do when we recruit. We're not seeing those types of things."

In late August, with a nearly month-long boil water alert in place, and the two primary raw water pumps at O.B. Curtis previously removed for repairs and out of commission, the total collapse of the City's water system was imminent. A total collapse would have left approximately 150,000 residents of Hinds County without running water, flushing toilets, or functioning fire hydrants. In order to avoid this impending humanitarian crisis, and in coordination with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency ("MEMA") and the MSDH, on August 30, 2022, I issued a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency<sup>10</sup> in the City and surrounding areas of Hinds County that receive water from the O.B. Curtis Water Treatment Plant. Additionally, I immediately requested the President issue a federal emergency measures declaration.<sup>11</sup> The MSDH also issued its emergency order regarding the City's water system.<sup>12</sup> Specifically the MSDH Order found:

- Insufficient number of certified operators at Fewell and O.B. Curtis.
- Insufficient number of maintenance staff at all water treatment plants and to support distribution system.
- Failure of multiple raw water pumps at O.B. Curtis.

<sup>7</sup> With long-term Jackson water fix in mind, leaders ask the mayor: Where's your plan?, MISSISSIPPI TODAY (Sept. 8, 2022) <a href="https://mississippitoday.org/2022/09/08/jackson-water-plan-mayor-state-solution/">https://mississippitoday.org/2022/09/08/jackson-water-plan-mayor-state-solution/</a>
<sup>8</sup> EXCLUSIVE: Emails reveal staffing shortage threatened to shut down water treatment plants, WLBT (August 18, 2022) <a href="https://www.wlbt.com/2022/08/18/exclusive-emails-reveal-staffing-shortage-threatened-shut-down-water-treatment-plants/">https://www.wlbt.com/2022/08/18/exclusive-emails-reveal-staffing-shortage-threatened-shut-down-water-treatment-plants/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 'No Efforts To Recruit': EPA Says Jackson Failed To Address Water System Needs, MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS (August 30, 2022) <a href="https://www.mississippifreepress.org/26791/no-efforts-to-recruit-epa-says-jackson-failed-to-address-water-system-needs">https://www.mississippifreepress.org/26791/no-efforts-to-recruit-epa-says-jackson-failed-to-address-water-system-needs</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Proclamation of State of Emergency (August 30, 2022) https://mcusercontent.com/08cb3e52aa1308600f84d49ea/files/8169eb65-c9c5-d7fe-7bc5-f2a811032381/PROC\_SOE\_Water\_Plant\_8\_30\_22.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Request for Emergency Measures Declaration (August 30, 2022) <a href="https://www.msema.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Emergency-Dec-Request-Water-Crisis.pdf">https://www.msema.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Emergency-Dec-Request-Water-Crisis.pdf</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> State Health Officer Issues Emergency Order Regarding City of Jackson Water, MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, News Release (August 30, 2022) https://www.msdh.ms.gov/page/23,24664,341.html

- Low levels of water in storage tanks.
- Low water pressure impacting proper sanitation and education opportunities.
- Disinfectant levels not consistently optimal developing the potential to have the presence of enteric organisms, including but not limited to, E.Coli, Cryptosporidium, or Giardia in the drinking water being served to customers.

At my instruction, MEMA and MSDH established the State Incident Command Center to take all necessary actions to abate the emergency. In addition to representatives of MEMA and MSDH, representatives of the City, EPA, and FEMA comprise the State Incident Command Center. In less than 72 hours, water pressure was returned to the City, and in less than 15 days the boil water alert was lifted. During the boil water alert, the state through MEMA and the National Guard distributed over 13.7 million bottles of water to the City's residents. To date, the state has incurred obligations totaling \$12.6 million in connection with this State of Emergency.

On September 26, 2022, the United States Department of Justice, on behalf of the EPA, issued a letter<sup>13</sup> to the City expressing its intention to file an action against the City under the Safe Drinking Water Act.<sup>14</sup> The letter detailed the numerous violations by the City of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as well as its failure to comply with the April 2020 Emergency Administrative Order and July 2021 Administrative Compliance Consent Order. Specifically, the DOJ asserted that the City failed to protect public health by the following: (1) Failure to adequately staff water treatment plants with Class A operators, (2) Failure to implement an Alternative Water Supply Plan pursuant to the Administrative Order, (3) Failure to comply with the timeline for general filter rehabilitation pursuant to the Administrative Compliance Consent Order, (4) Failure to install corrosion control pursuant to the Lead and Copper Rule, (5) Exceedance of the haloacetric acids five maximum contaminant level, and (6) Exceedance of single turbidity limits. The letter requested the City immediately enter into negotiation with the DOJ regarding the recent drinking water crisis.

Before responding to your specific requests for information, it is necessary to correct three significant misstatements in your letter:

• No floodwaters seeped into the O.B. Curtis Plant resulting in the failure of the plant. Rather, due to the City's failure to maintain the equipment at the Plant and to staff the Plant with sufficient personnel, the Plant was unable to adequately account for and respond to a change in the makeup of the chemical composition of the water in the reservoir, the source of raw water for the Plant, resulting I n the Plant's failure.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Letter Re: Safe Drinking Water Act Matter Regarding Jackson, Mississippi (September 26, 2022) <a href="https://www.scribd.com/document/596865146/US-DOJ-letter#download&from\_embed">https://www.scribd.com/document/596865146/US-DOJ-letter#download&from\_embed</a>; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Dept. of Justice says water not safe, prepared to file action against Jackson under Safe Drinking Water Act, WDAM (Sept. 26, 2022) <a href="https://www.wdam.com/2022/09/26/dept-justice-says-water-not-safe-prepared-file-action-against-jackson-under-safe-drinking-water-act/">https://www.wdam.com/2022/09/26/dept-justice-says-water-not-safe-prepared-file-action-against-jackson-under-safe-drinking-water-act/</a>

- The City has not experienced a reduction of tax revenue due to "a steady exodus of white and affluent residents." Between 2003 and 2020, the City has seen an \$84 million *increase* in total revenue from \$180 million to \$264 million. Specifically, during this time property tax revenues have increased by \$19 million from just under \$60 million to \$79 million, and sales tax and other revenue has increased \$18 million from \$36 million to \$54 million. The sales tax and other revenue has increased \$18 million from \$36 million to \$54 million.
- There have been no "State-related roadblocks" that have prevented the City from maintaining its water system. Rather, it has been the ongoing and historic mismanagement of the system¹6 that has seen the system's operating income fall from a \$7 million *profit* in 2012 to a \$17 million *deficit* in 2019 (which was reduced to a \$10 million deficit in 2020 due to a \$14 million infusion from a legal settlement with Siemens). Furthermore, the City has received an additional \$84 million in direct ARPA funding,¹8 and as discussed in more detail below, the City recently received nearly \$28 million in DWSRF funds in FY 2021, and it is anticipated to receive an additional \$35.6 million in matching ARPA funds from the state pursuant to the Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant program. Indeed, of the more than 1,100 water systems in Mississippi, only the system operated by the City is unable to set and collect rates sufficient to cover its costs of operations, maintenance and debt service.

Responses to requests for information:

### Request Number 1

The Mississippi Legislature dedicated \$750 million (out of a total of \$1.8 billion) in ARPA funds to provide grants to Mississippi's 1,100 water systems. Specifically, HB 1421 (2022 Session) established the Rural Water Associations Infrastructure Grant program under the purview of the MSDH, and HB 1538 (2022 Session) appropriated \$300 million to this program. SB 2822 (2022 Session) established the Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant program under the purview of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality ("MDEQ"), and SB 3054 (2022 Session) appropriated \$450 million to this program.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> How Jackson's Water System Collapsed, JACKSON JAMBALAYA (Sept. 20, 2022) http://kingfish1935.blogspot.com/2022/09/how-jacksons-water-system-collapsed.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Jackson's Water Woes Explained, WSJ, Sept. 6, 2022, at A16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> How Jackson's Water System Collapsed (Sept. 20, 2022).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Will Jackson receive its ARPA funds?, WJTV (September 28, 2022) <a href="https://www.wjtv.com/news/local-news/will-jackson-receive-its-arpa-funds/">https://www.wjtv.com/news/local-news/will-jackson-receive-its-arpa-funds/</a>

The City of Jackson has submitted an application for \$35.6 million in funding through the first round of the Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant program.<sup>19</sup> Program rules and regulations are available at the Mississippi Municipality & County Water Infrastructure Grant Program portal.<sup>20</sup> To date, no awards have been made by MDEQ. It is anticipated that awards will be announced in the first part of 2023.

#### Request Number 2

In 2022, the Mississippi Legislature nearly unanimously passed HB 1031,<sup>21</sup> bipartisan legislation creating the Capital City Water/Sewer Projects Fund as a special fund to be administered by the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration ("DFA"). The legislation requires "funds appropriated or otherwise made available by the Legislature" and placed into this special fund to be used "for the purpose of providing funds to assist the City of Jackson in paying costs associated with projects (defined as "construction, reconstruction, repairs, upgrades and improvements to the City of Jackson's water and sewer systems and facilities.")." Further, the legislation states if the City wishes to utilize such funds, "it must establish a plan for the project or projects for which the governing authorities desire assistance and submit the plan and an application for assistance to [DFA]." That legislation was sponsored by Rep. Shanda Yates (D), Rep. Debra Gibbs (D), Rep. Gregory Holloway (D), Rep. Ronnie Crudup (D), Rep. Zakiya Summers (D), Rep. Stephanie Foster(D), Rep. Alyce Clarke (D), Rep. William Brown (D), Rep. Earle Banks (D), Rep. Christopher Bell (D). It was passed with the unanimous support of all Democratic and all Black members of the Mississippi Legislature.

Senate Bill 2822 (2022 Session) states all funds awarded to the City of Jackson pursuant to the Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Program "shall be deposited in the Capital City Water/Sewer Projects Fund of the State of Mississippi." To date, no awards have been made by MDEQ for any municipality, thus no ARPA funds have been deposited into the Capital City

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Jackson seeking \$35.6M from state infrastructure program to help fund water and sewer projects, WLBT (October 7, 2022), https://www.wlbt.com/2022/10/08/jackson-seeking-356m-state-infrastructure-program-help-fund-water-sewer-projects/ Specifically, the City is seeking \$1,650,000 to replace aging raw water pumps at O.B. Curtis, \$8,800,000 to rehab filters on the O.B. Curtis Plant's conventional and membrane filtration sides, \$1,450,000 to convert manual chemical feeds to automated ones at O.B. Curtis and the J.H. Fewell Treatment Plants, \$8,798,000 to replace filters and finish construction of a 48-inch water transmission line at Fewell, and \$2,750,000 to repair and rehab aged pumps at Fewell.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Mississippi Municipality & County Water Infrastructure Grant Program, MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, <a href="https://mswaterinfrastructure.com/">https://mswaterinfrastructure.com/</a>

HB 1031 (http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2022/pdf/HB/1000-1099/HB1031SG.pdf) passed the House 114-6 (http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2022/pdf/votes/house/0850052.pdf) and passed the Senate 52-0 (http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2022/pdf/votes/senate/0860008.pdf).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> SB 2822 (http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2022/pdf/SB/2800-2899/SB2822SG.pdf) at Lines 209-211. SB 2822 passed unanimously in both the House

<sup>(</sup>http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2022/pdf/votes/senate/0860008.pdf) and Senate (http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2022/pdf/votes/senate/0860054.pdf).

Water/Sewer Projects Fund. It is anticipated that awards will be announced in the first part of 2023.

#### Request Number 3

On August 26, 2022, the Board of the MSDH approved the Fiscal Year 2022 Intended Use Plan ("IUP") <sup>23</sup> for the Drinking Water Systems Improvements Revolving Loan Fund Program ("DWSRF"). <sup>24</sup> Consistent with the directives of Congress, the IUP places emphasis on assisting smaller drinking water systems to ensure that these systems have adequate technical, managerial, and financial resources to achieve or maintain compliance and provide safe drinking water. The total amount of federal and state matching funds to be placed into the DWSRF for FY 2022 is estimated at \$30.36 million.

Pursuant to the FY 2022 IUP, in order to ensure that funds are equally available to each of Mississippi's 1,100 water systems, the maximum amount for any loan is \$5 million (subject to a case-by-case evaluation of need by the Board). No more than one loan shall be made to any borrower in any fiscal year, and interest is the lesser of 1.9% or the rate for twenty-year tax-exempt bonds. The standard loan term is 20 years; however, a maximum loan term of 30 years may be approved, or even up to 40 years for disadvantaged communities. To ensure that principal forgiveness is available to as many "disadvantaged communities" as possible, a \$500,000 limit has been set for principal forgiveness.

The City of Jackson has received considerable funding over the years. Specifically, in FY 2021, Jackson was awarded assistance from the DWSRF in the amount of \$27,953,300, that is 68.4% of total funds disbursed, and over 93% of the total amount to large communities (population greater than 10,000) throughout the entire state of Mississippi (and far in *excess* of the \$5 million cap.)<sup>25</sup> To date, the City has committed less than \$16 million<sup>26</sup> of the nearly \$28 million made available to it in FY 2021. No awards were made to the City in FY 2022 because the City did not request any additional funding. Jackson has applied only three times for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program, which the Biden administration has repeatedly touted as their vehicle

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> State of Mississippi Drinking Water Systems Improvement Revolving Loan Fund Program, FFY - 2022 Intended Use Plan, MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, Approved August 26, 2022, <a href="https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/">https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/</a> static/resources/17153.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>Mississippi Code Ann. § 41-3-16 establishes the Local Governments and Rural Water Systems Improvements Board (under the MSDH) to administer the local governments and rural water systems improvement revolving loan and grant program.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> In addition to its request in FY 2021, the City previously requested a DWSRF loan on *two* prior occasions since the inception of the program in 1996. In FY 2016, the City requested and received a loan in the principal amount of \$10,861,920, representing 33% of the total funds available. In FY 2019, the City requested and received a loan in the principal amount of \$12,903,093, representing 35% of the total funds available. The City has *never* had an application for a DWSRF loan denied.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> The City has committed approximately \$4 million for a winterization project at O. B. Curtis, \$9.6 million for corrosion control improvements at J.H. Fewell, and \$1.7 million for filter rehabilitation at J.H. Fewell.

for investment in water systems. MSDH has awarded every single application that Jackson submitted. The \$500,000 principal forgiveness cap applies to the FY 2021 loan received by the City, and this cap applies to all loans funded in FY 2022.

The Office of the Governor plays no role in setting the terms and conditions of the IUP; thus, this Office is unable to answer any questions regarding the FY 2023 IUP. All federal funds, including funds pursuant to ARPA and the BIL, are available to the City on the same terms and conditions that apply to all 1,100 water systems throughout the State.

With respect to your request for a "breakdown of the racial demographics" of the locations that received DWSRF loans in FY 2022, MSDH neither collects, nor considers racial demographic information in connection with DWSRF loan program. As you are no doubt aware, consideration of or awarding loans based on race would violate a number of federal laws, including Title VI. Pursuant to the IUP, "disadvantaged communities" eligible for principal forgiveness are determined on a race-neutral basis. The amount of principal forgiveness is determined by calculating the percentage of the median household income of the applicant versus the median household income of the state. For example, an applicant with a median household income 70% or less of the state median household income (\$46,511) will be eligible for 45% principal forgiveness.

In response to your request, the MSDH, utilizing the applicants zip code and Census QuickFacts data, has attempted to approximate the racial demographics of the recipients of DWSRF loans in FY 2021 and 2022. That data is compiled in the attached charts<sup>27</sup> but summarized here. For FY 2021, a total of nearly \$41 million in loans were awarded with over \$31 million going to applicants that serve a majority Black population, representing 76.6% of the funds disbursed. As noted above, the 2021 award of \$27,953,300 to the City of Jackson itself accounted for over 68% of the total awards.<sup>28</sup> For FY 2022, a total of \$42.7 million in loans were awarded with over \$17.6 million going to applicants that serve a majority Black population, representing 41.3% of the funds disbursed. According to the latest Census, Mississippi's population is 38% Black.<sup>29</sup> Thus, there is no factual basis whatsoever to suggest that there has been an "underinvestment" in the City or that it received disproportionately less than any other area of the state. To the contrary, the City has never been denied a request for DWSRF funding and in fact has received a greater share of all awards made to all other water systems throughout the state. There is therefore no support for the assertion that the terms and conditions of the IUP for FY 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Attached Compilations for DWSRF Projects for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> According to the latest Census Data, with a population of 149,761, Jackson, Mississippi accounts for approximately 5% of a total state population of 2,949,965.

https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/jacksoncitymississippi,MS/PST045221.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Mississippi; United States, https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/MS/PST045221

or 2022 effected any systemic discrimination or inequality on the City or any other majority Black communities across the state.

I am both proud and grateful for the efforts of MEMA, MSDH and the Mississippi National Guard, as well as the leadership of the State Incident Command, the tireless work of too few Jackson public works operators who selflessly worked to keep the O.B. Curtis Plant operating, and for the efforts and resources of all the EMAC workers who answered MEMA's call to leave their home states and families and promptly repair the failed plants and restore clean water for the residents of the City.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information to assist the Committees in addressing the topics raised in your letter.

Sincerely,

Tate Reeves Governor

#### Attachment

cc: The Honorable Senator Roger Wicker

The Honorable Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith

The Honorable Rep. James Comer, Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Rep. John Katko, Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Rep. Michael Guest

The Honorable Rep. Trent Kelly

The Honorable Rep. Steve Palazzo

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FISCAL YEAR 2021 Project	Project Description	Zip Code	County	Service Area Population	MHI of Population Served by the Project	White alone, percent	Black or African American alone, percent	Loan Amount Requested	Loan Amount Received
1 City of Jackson	Water and Distribution System Improvements	39201	Hinds	165000 \$	\$ 38,819	16.2%	82.5%	\$ 27,953,300	\$ 27,953,300
2 City of Lexington	Elevated Tank Rehab	39095	Hoimes *	1735	\$ 24,631	15.7%	83.1%	\$ 326,350	\$ 326,350
3 St Thomas Water Association	Water System Improvements	39041	Hinds	732	\$ 43,338	23.2%	72.7%	\$ 135,523	\$ 135,523
4 Thomasville Water Association	Water and Distribution Systems Improvements	39073	Rankin	1294	\$ 43,825	70.1%	20.1% \$	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000
5 Plum Point Community W/A	Water and Distribution System Improvements/New Well	38658	Panola*	115	\$ 41,111	47.9%	50.4% \$	\$ 308,532	\$ 308,532
6 Sylvarena W/A	New Water Well	39153	Smith*	\$ 982	\$ 37,835	74.8%	23.8% \$	711,000	\$ 711,000
7 Days W/A	Install 12" Water Lines/Electrical Controls	38651	Desoto *	3500	\$ 56,787	63.5%	32.6% \$	733,290	\$ 733,290
8 Leesburg W/A	Replace Approx. 165,000 LF Water Mains W/4"-8" PVC	39145	Rankin*	4182	\$ 37,491	75.8%	13.6% \$	2,505,000	\$ 2,505,000
9 Central Yazoo W/A	New Water Well, Distribution Improvements, &	39194	Yazoo*	0966	\$ 34,968	40.0%	\$ %2.75	2,075,000	\$ 2,075,000
10 City of Pearl	Distribution Ph.I/Water Ph. 2 Systems Improvements	39208	Rankin	26500 \$	\$ 37,782	63.9%	31.8% \$	1,850,000	\$ 1,850,000
11 Town of Mount Olive	Replacement of Water Lines	39119 (	Covington *	1000 \$	\$ 30,467	61.4%	35.6% \$	1,032,027	\$ 1,032,027
12 Town of Raleigh	Water System Improvements	39153	Smith*	1462 \$	\$ 32,133	74.8%	23.8% \$	922,000	\$ 922,000
13 Rose Hill W/A	Replace 5.5 Miles of 4"-6" Water Mains/Appurtenance	39356	Jasper*	1188 \$	\$ 31,814	45.0%	53.4% \$	506,623	\$ 506,623

Note: This demographic data is not normally collected by the program. Staff used the system zip code and the Census QuickFacts to collect this data. The Program defines Disadvantaged Communities as a project's service population with an MHI less than the State's MHI.

https://www.census.gov/quickfact\_s/fact/table/US/PST045221

Zip code information was not available. Therefore, the county data was used.

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FISCAL YEAR 2022 Project	Project Description	Zip Code	County	Service Area Population	Popu Serv the P	MHI of Population Served by the Project	White alone, percent	Black or African American alone, percent	Loan Amount Requested	이	Loan Amount Received
1 Hazelhurst, Town of	Water Treatment Facility/Water System Improvements	39083	Copiah*	3838	ςş	26,883	46.2%	51.7%	\$ 4,490,015	s,	4,490,015
2 Golding Acres W/A	New Water Well	38701	Washington*	105	ψ,	29,083	25.5%	72.7%	\$ 444,012	<>	444,012
3 Central Yazoo W/A	Water Distribution Improvements	39194	Yazoo*	0966	₹,	34,968	40.0%	57.7%	\$ 1,589,330	٠	1.589.330
4 Pearl, City of	Distribution Improvements	39208	Rankin	26500	₩.	38,391	63.9%	31.8%	\$ 1,150,000		1,150,000
5 NE Ittawamba W/A	Water System Improvements	38847	Itawamba	4700	₩.	33,496	91.0%	7.0%	\$ 1,589,330	· v	1.589.330
6 Southern Rankin W/A	Water System Improvements	39073	Rankin*	3975		44,138	74.5%	22.5%	\$ 2,400,000	٠.	2,400,000
7 Eudora Utilities	New W.T. Plant/300,000. Gal Tank/12" Water Lines	38632	Desoto	3702	ψ.	906′89	63.5%	32.6%	\$ 906,000	₩.	906,000
8 Rocky Creek W/A	New Elevated Storage Tank	39452	George	2200	v,	44,922	89.1%	8.0%	\$ 1.445.256	·V	1,445,256
9 Central W/A	Rehab/ Replacement of Existing Facilities	39350	Neshoba*	12082	<>	36,820	58.7%	21.4%	\$ 4,038,251		4,038,251
10 North Hinds W/A	Rehab Storage Facilities	39071	Madison*	10150	٠,	49,927	57.3%	38.5%	\$ 537,000	٠ ٠	537.000
11 Hattiesburg, City of	Rehab/ Replacement of Existing Facilities	39403	Forrest	45951	٠ د	45,022	40.4%	54.6%	\$ 1,511,937	٠.	1,511,937
12 Brandon, City of	Replace Water Lines	39042	Rankin	26355	ς,	929'99	%0.9/	21.8%	\$ 5,000,000	· ·	2,000,000
13 Magee's Creek W/A	Water System Improvements	39667	Walthall	7194	٠.,	35,822	54.2%	43.0%	\$ 780,500	· vs	780.500
14 Hub W/A	50,000 G Tank/400 GPM Well/Valves/Elec. Controls	39429	Marion*	3300	-v₁	39,285	%8.99	31.6%	\$ 2,458,500	• ◆	2,458,500
15 Union Church W/A	Treatment plant rehabilitation and backup well	39668	39668 Jefferson	1508		33,113 1	13.8% 8	84.9%	3,242,000	↔	3,242,000
16 Friar's Point, Town of	Distribution System Improvements	38631	Coahoma*	1200	ζ,	21,818	20.7%	77.7%	\$ 1,337,914	₩	1,337,914
17 Thomasville W/A	New Well	39073	Rankin*	1294	\$	43,825	74.5%	22.5%	\$ 1,450,000	⊹∽	1,450,000
18 Culkin Water District	Rehab/ Replacement of Existing Facilities	39183	Warren*	11409	۰ ج	43,907	27.0%	69.4%	\$ 5,000,000	↔	2,000,000
19 Decatur, Town of	Rehab/ Replacement of Existing Facilities	39327	Newton*	1705	\$	48,252	61.4%	31.4%	\$ 3,300,725	↔	3,300,725

Note: This demographic data is not normally collected by the program. Staff used the system zip code and the Census QuickFacts to collect this data. The Program defines Disadvantaged Communities as a project's service population with an MHI less than the State's MHI.

v/quickfacts/fact/table/ US/PST045221 https://www.census.go

Zip code information was not available. Therefore, the county data was used.