



# County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING  
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

August 12, 2024

Elaine Cervantes, General Manager  
Biola Community Services District  
P.O. Box 57  
Biola, CA 93606

Dear Ms. Cervantes:

Subject: Biola Fire Hydrant Replacement, CDBG Project #24031

As part of the 2024-2025 Action Plan approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 18, 2024, the above referenced project was selected for funding. Unfortunately, HUD has recently released updated Census Block Group data that must be utilized for all projects not under agreement by August 1, 2024. Analysis of the updated data has resulted in a revised determination that the project no longer meets any of the three Federal national objectives for funding under HUD's CDBG Program. CDBG-funded activities must meet one of HUD's three national objectives under Section 570.208 of the Community Development Block Grant Program. The national objectives are as follows:

- (1) Benefit to low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons;
- (2) Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; and
- (3) Meet a need having a particular urgency.

Based upon our analysis of the project's service area as identified on the map submitted, the service area for the proposed project is only 45.8% low- to moderate-income (LMI) persons using the data for the Biola Census Designated Place, which closely corresponds to the Biola CSD boundary. Additionally, the larger area of the entire Block Group is 45.2% LMI, which precludes that data from being used either. HUD requires that projects must benefit areas with populations that have a minimum a 51% LMI population. Accordingly, we will not be able to accept an application from Biola CSD for the 2025-26 program year application cycle currently open, which is closing on August 30, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Avedian at (559) 600-4292 or by email at [javedian@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:javedian@fresnocountyca.gov). Community Development staff are looking into options to gather alternative data, but we do not anticipate being able to undertake this until sometime in 2025, and cannot guarantee that gathering alternate data would result in meeting the 51% LMI threshold required.

This determination does not impact the Biola Groundwater Recharge, CDBG Project #21032, as that project is already under agreement and still uses the data in place at that time.

Ms. Elaine Cervantes, General Manager  
August 12, 2024  
Page 2

We thank you for your interest in the CDBG Program and are available to assist you in the development of a future project.

Sincerely,

Steven E. White, Director  
Department of Public Works and Planning

c:     Alfonso Manrique, AM Consulting Engineers (via email)  
       Faisal Sweileh, AM Consulting Engineers (via email)  
       Augustine Ramirez, Water & Natural Resources / Community Development (via email)  
       Jonathan Avedian, Community Development Division (via email)  
       Jared Nimer, Community Development Division (via email)