[INSERT Tribal Water/Wastewater Utility/Locality Letterhead, Name and/or Logo]

[INSERT Date]

The bearer of this letter is an essential critical infrastructure worker in the Water and Wastewater Sector and is providing a vital public health and safety service. **Please allow passage of this person, property, and/or equipment to the intended destination.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler wrote on April 7, 2020, to tribal leaders to ensure that water and wastewater workers, as well as the manufacturers and suppliers who provide vital services to the water sector, are considered essential workers and businesses by state authorities when enacting restrictions to curb the spread of the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

On March 16, 2020, the President issued *Coronavirus Guidelines for America* which states “[i]f you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security … you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule.” Following this guidance, on March 19, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released *Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19* *Response*. The DHS guidance specifically recognizes the following water and wastewater workers and suppliers to the water sector (e.g., chemical manufacturers and delivery services) as essential critical infrastructure workers:

* Operational staff at water authorities
* Operational staff at community water systems
* Operational staff at wastewater treatment facilities
* Workers repairing water and wastewater conveyances and performing required sampling or monitoring
* Operational staff for water distribution and testing
* Operational staff at wastewater collection facilities
* Operational staff and technical support for SCADA Control systems
* Chemical disinfectant suppliers for wastewater and personnel protection
* Workers that maintain digital systems infrastructure supporting water and wastewater operations

Thank you for your efforts to contain and minimize the spread of the COVID-19. We are dedicated to working with you to ensure the safety of the workforce and the continued operations of water and wastewater services in support of our nation's public health and safety. For verification or inquiries regarding this request, please contact [INSERT NAME, TITLE AND PHONE NUMBER].

Sincerely,

[INSERT SIGNATURE HERE]

[INSERT PRINTED NAME HERE]