Date

Address

RE: COVID-19 Vaccinations for Water and Wastewater Sector

Dear [Name]:

As [name of state or local agency] develops plans for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, [name of utility] asks that our frontline utility staff members receive priority in Phases 1-B and 1-C. These phases include “frontline essential workers as the subset of essential workers likely at greatest risk for work-related exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, because their work-related duties must be performed on site and involve being in close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more) to the public or coworkers.,” as described in the January 2021 Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) *COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdictions Operations Annex*.

Vaccinating frontline water and wastewater utility staff members is particularly important because, as a lifeline sector, water and wastewater sector services underpin all aspects of society, including hospitals and long-term care facilities. Due to the specialized skills and licenses required for utility operations, and the corresponding challenges in finding replacements for staff members who may become ill or exposed, it is essential to mitigate staff members’ COVID-19 risks through all possible means, including vaccinations.

[Name of utility] provides water [and/or wastewater] services to residents of [name of community]. In addition, we provide services for [describe hospitals and other critical facilities in service area]. Our services are essential for keeping these facilities operating and for protecting public health. We estimate that [number of staff] essential staff members should be given priority for the vaccine in Phase 1-B and 1-C.

I appreciate your consideration of our critical water workers in your vaccine prioritization plans. Please contact me at [contact info] if you have any questions or would like to discuss vaccine prioritization for our workers.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]