



JESSAMINE COUNTY FISCAL COURT

101 N. Main Street • Court House • Nicholasville, KY 40356 • (859) 885-4500
www.jessamineky.gov

The Honorable Andy Barr
U.S. House of Representatives
Sixth Congressional District of Kentucky
Washington DC Office
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FY 2027 Community Project Funding Request— Nicholasville Regional Water Supply Capacity Upgrade

Dear Congressman Barr,

On behalf of the Jessamine County Fiscal Court, I respectfully request your support for \$2,000,000 in FY 2027 Community Project Funding to complete construction of 22,071 linear feet of 24-inch ductile iron transmission main connecting the Nicholasville Water Treatment Plant to the City's distribution system.

This project will construct a new 24-inch parallel transmission main to eliminate a critical bottleneck created by three smaller legacy water mains—one dating back to the 1950s—that currently convey treated water from the plant to the distribution system.

Nicholasville's water treatment facility is rated at 7 million gallons per day (MGD) and currently serves approximately 14,500 retail customers as well as two wholesale water districts. The proposed main is the key infrastructure improvement needed to support planned pumping upgrades and enable future expansion toward 15 MGD system capacity to meet regional demand.

Nicholasville and Jessamine County continue to experience steady population and economic growth. U.S. Census estimates indicate the City's population increased from 31,108 in 2020 to 33,458 in 2024, a 7.6 percent increase, with continued growth projected in the coming years. In addition, recent federal investment in the expansion of Jennette Industrial Park—\$4 million secured through FY23–FY24 Community Project Funding—is expected to support more than 600 new jobs, further increasing both peak and average daily water demand as industrial sites are developed.

This transmission main also provides regional benefits. Nicholasville supplies wholesale water to Jessamine County Water District No. 1 and the Jessamine-South Elkhorn Water

District, extending reliable water service and fire protection to growing unincorporated areas throughout the county.

In addition to increasing system capacity, the project will improve water quality and regulatory compliance. Greater transmission capacity will enhance turnover in the City's three distribution storage tanks, reducing water age and supporting continued compliance with the EPA Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR). Improved tank cycling and lower water age are widely recognized best practices for minimizing disinfection byproduct formation.

The new transmission main will also improve energy efficiency and operational performance. A larger-diameter main reduces hydraulic head loss, allowing the system to deliver the same or greater water volumes at lower pumping pressure. As pumping represents most of the a water utility's electricity use, this improvement will reduce long-term power consumption and operating costs at the City's high-service pumping station.

This 24-inch transmission main has been identified in the City's long-range water system improvements plan and is included among current municipal utility capital projects. Community Project Funding would close the remaining funding gap, allowing the City to bid and construct the project on a FY27 schedule.

Nicholasville maintains current Consumer Confidence Reports and public utility disclosures, and the City will comply with all federal requirements associated with Community Project Funding awards. The City will also report measurable outcomes including increased system capacity, improved tank turnover performance, and reduced energy use per million gallons pumped.

This project represents a targeted, high-impact federal investment. It supports job-creating industrial development already funded through prior federal appropriations, strengthens water supply resilience for neighboring water districts, improves compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, and lowers long-term operating costs for local ratepayers.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of infrastructure investments that strengthen the communities of Jessamine County.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Ray", written in a cursive style.

Justin Ray
Deputy Judge/Executive
Jessamine County Fiscal Court