



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

AUG 18 2014

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
U.S. House of Representatives
Cannon House Office Building, 423
Washington, DC 20515-5601

Dear Mr. Sablan:

In follow up to your letter of June 17, 2014, we are pleased to let you know that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have determined that appropriate legal authorities exist to support the assignments of Public Health Service (PHS) Officers to EPA grant-funded positions in the Pacific islands. As a result, the Officers currently on assignments in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (CNMI) may continue in their assignments, and future assignments to environmental agencies or utilities in the Pacific territories may be considered.

Our agencies have worked closely together to reach this conclusion because we recognize and value the substantial environmental and human health benefits to which the PHS Officers have contributed in American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI.

Thank you for your support of the Officers and their work in the Pacific. Please feel free to contact Frances Schultz (415-972-3297) or John McCarroll (415-972-3774) if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

RADM Boris D. Lushniak
Acting Surgeon General
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Jared Blumenfeld
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9



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