January 10, 2020

MES Thesis Fund Committee  
The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, WA 98505

To the MES Thesis Fund Committee,

I have successfully completed and received credit for Case Studies and Thesis Design in Fall 2019. Data collection for my thesis has begun, and I hope and expect to graduate in Spring 2020.

My thesis is inspired by my family and some of the struggles they deal with living in the Central Valley of California as a low income and people of color family. I am focusing on how unsafe drinking water is negatively affecting disadvantaged community’s health, specifically in Stanislaus County. I will be mapping spatial layers in GIS that consist of race and income demographics, nitrate levels in drinking water, and cancer rates for Stanislaus County to identify any trends and correlations. I will also be conducting interviews. The first group of individuals interviewed will be those in elected positions and agency decision-makers. This will include professionals that are on the Board of Supervisors for Stanislaus County and the California State Water Resources Control Board. The second group to be interviewed are those in academia and environmental justice activism. This includes environmental justice experts at the UC Davis Center for Regional Change, hydrogeologists, and research associates with the Cancer Registry for California. My goal is to compare the two priorities and viewpoints of environmental justice for clean drinking water. I will also compare the patterns noticed inside each group to see how opinions differ between the decision makers and then again in the academics and experts. The results from my thesis will not only visually show trends through a GIS StoryMap but will also explain where budgets are being spent to protect the citizens of Stanislaus County. Experts views on which issues to resolve to improve the health of the area will be in the results. I believe that this is an important topic because environmental justice is a growing concern. I consider this a huge problem in California that needs to be addressed and brought to the attention to everyone impacted.

I am asking for $420 to cover the costs of traveling to California to conduct interviews. Thank you for accepting my application.

Anna Duron

MES Graduate Student

Budget

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost** |
| Flight to Sacramento | $130 |
| Car Rental for 8 days | $200 |
| Gas | $90 |
| Total | $420 |

Flight from SeaTac to Sacramento, CA: Approximately $130

I chose to fly into Sacramento because it is cheaper than flying into Modesto and these are the two major cities that I will be conducting interviews in.

Car Rental in Sacramento: $25/day

Car Rental for 8 days: $25\*8=$200

I will need at least eight days to schedule interviews to work around the busy schedules of the professionals I will be interviewing.

Gas to travel from Sacramento to Modesto:

Gas is $3/gallon. Sacramento to Modesto is approximately 90 miles. Total roundtrip visit will be $30 in gas.  
Estimated number of trips back and forth: 3  
Total cost: $30\*3=$90

The interviews I would like to conduct will primarily be at the UC Davis for Regional Change in Sacramento. This is where the environmental justice experts and the hydrogeologist are located. I am also conducting interviews with Board Members of Stanislaus County which are based out of Modesto and Denair. Since there will be numerous interviews, I will likely have to drive back and forth between cities at least 3 times.

Total travel expenses: $420