

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Chair Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree:

We write to request that you include \$100 million in funding for the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Border Water Infrastructure Program helps finance and build critical infrastructure projects focused on public health and the environment on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. The two-thousand-mile border between the United States and Mexico is one of the most complex and dynamic regions in the world, with a growing need to address trans-border water quality and national security issues.

The EPA investments in these border water projects aim to protect public health from waterborne diseases and have been a key factor in addressing water quality improvements in the U.S. waterbodies, such as the Rio Grande (Texas and New Mexico), Santa Cruz River (Arizona), New River (California), Tijuana River (California) and Pacific Ocean (California).

To date, the BWIP administered by the EPA has funded over 143 water and wastewater projects that benefit more than 9 million people. The program focuses on improving sanitation and providing safe drinking water to communities within 60 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border. From Naval Base San Diego and Naval Amphibious Base Coronado to Fort Bliss, several BWIP projects in border cities indirectly benefit the thousands of veteran and military families who live off-base in civilian neighborhoods. These communities rely on the same municipal water systems that the BWIP improved.

While the program has made significant progress in addressing public health impacts, more funding is needed to meet project demand – ensuring residents, businesses, and the broader military community have reliable, safe drinking water. Rural and underserved border communities are still challenged by existing infrastructure gaps and would greatly benefit from continued support for these programs.

We appreciate your consideration and strongly urge the Committee to provide robust funding for the EPA's U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program at the requested amount.

Sincerely,



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



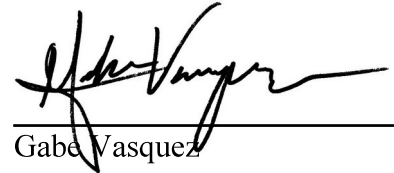
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress