

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th Street, SW Mail Stop 0150  
Washington, D.C. 20528-0150

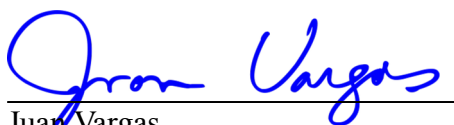
Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

As you know, Friendship Park, located on the San Diego-Tijuana border wall, has historically been a meeting spot for friends and family on both sides of the border. The park closed to the public in 2020 due to the global pandemic and subsequently to make way for construction of replacement fencing. I have been informed that Friendship Park remains closed due to an unexpected pause in construction. I write to respectfully request an updated timeline of when construction of the replacement fence is anticipated to resume, when visitors may resume access to the park, and when volunteers can resume garden access.

During discussions with the public and stakeholders, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shared its plans to reopen and restore access to Friendship Park and the Binational Friendship Garden. On January 17, 2023, CBP announced<sup>1</sup> its new path forward for the replacement of the deteriorated border wall near Friendship Park. As part of this announcement, CBP stated that Friendship Park would re-open once construction was complete. I applaud CBP's commitment to re-opening Friendship Park.

I appreciate your commitment to preserving the legacy of Friendship Park, an important communal landmark, which is to remain a public space that allows for international connectedness, despite an international boundary. Please give this request full and fair consideration in compliance with all applicable rules, regulations, and laws.

Sincerely,



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> [CBP announces new path forward for the replacement of deteriorated border barrier near Friendship Park | U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#)