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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas  
52nd District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL  
INSTITUTIONS AND MONETARY POLICY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,  
ILLICIT FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the "National City Wells Iron and Manganese Removal System" in fiscal year 2024, in the amount of \$1,500,000. The entity to receive the funding is the Sweetwater Authority, located at P.O. Box 2328, Chula Vista, CA 91912.

The funding would be used to install an Iron and Manganese Removal System at the Sweetwater Authority's National City Wells Facility. The National City Wells Iron and Manganese Removal System is a safe drinking water project that will improve the water quality provided to Sweetwater Authority customers in National City. Sweetwater Authority currently extracts water from the San Diego Formation Aquifer, which is an important and inexpensive source of water for the community. The groundwater contains naturally occurring minerals that accumulate in the water distribution system. Although iron and manganese levels at the National City Wells Facility are below the secondary maximum contaminant levels for both iron and manganese, these metals precipitate and accumulate within the distribution system over time and are resuspended due to operational activities, maintenance activities, and disruptions caused by knocked off fire hydrants or water main breaks. The resuspension of iron and manganese within the distribution system has led to discolored water complaints by residents in National City.

The project is a good use of taxpayer resources because it will improve the water quality for Sweetwater Authority customers in National City, a disadvantaged community located in San Diego County. Currently, groundwater minerals, specifically iron and manganese, accumulate in the water distribution system resulting in sediment that can cause red/brown discolored water. Many National City residents have expressed concerns and are worried to drink discolored water. These concerns often result in residents relying on more expensive options such as bottled water. The project will assist the Sweetwater Authority with meeting the needs of its customers, reduce residents' reliance on bottled water, while also keeping rates low for the disadvantaged community.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

This project has received written support from National City Mayor Ron Morrison.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juan Vargas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Juan" and last name "Vargas" clearly legible.

JUAN VARGAS  
Member of Congress