

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2334 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-8045
FAX: (202) 225-2772

CHULA VISTA OFFICE
333 F STREET, SUITE A
CHULA VISTA, CA 91910
(619) 422-5963
FAX: (619) 422-7290



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

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
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 Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the “Jamacha Drainage Channel Upgrade Storm Water Drain Project” project in fiscal year 2025, in the amount of \$8,500,000. The entity to receive the funding is the City of San Diego, located at 202 C Street, Floor 11, San Diego, CA 92101.

This project will partially fund the construction of the Jamacha Drainage Channel Upgrade Storm Water Drain Project (WBS B14078). Jamacha Drainage Channel project is located in the Skyline/Paradise Hills community within the Chollas Creek Watershed. The project is bound between the Jamacha Road and Glencoe Drive in upstream and Woodman Street and Imperial Avenue in downstream that is located within the highly urbanized upper portion of the Chollas Creek watershed. This area is prone to frequent floods during small storm events. This condition creates a health and safety issue for residents and impacts the natural habitat of adjacent areas and nearby public amenities. The overall project goals are to improve flood conveyance and mitigate environmental impact. The proposed improvements include culvert improvements at Cadman and Woodman Street, upsizing the existing storm drain system upstream of Beacon Drive, widening the existing stream channel in multiple locations, upsizing culverts at 68th Street and 69th Street, and creating wetland for habitat restoration.

In particular, the project aims to: install channel features, such as drop structures, to reduce flow and maximize the vegetation in the channel to promote longer resident time of floodwaters and enhanced water treatment through biotic and chemical uptake by native vegetation communities, which will support total maximum daily load (TMDL) targets for metals; reshape the floodplain channel in selected locations where sufficient area exists to expand the effective channel between an existing sewer line and the toe of the canyon slope to reduce flow velocities; upgrade and increase culvert capacity and the existing reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) system and replace storm drain inlets to reduce flood risk; establish a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) and Long- Term Management Plan (LTMP) for Jamacha Channel to facilitate up to 12 acres of compensatory mitigation through habitat restoration and a long-term management strategy; and establish local recreational amenities, including a non-motorized trail connection.

This project is a good use of taxpayer resources because it will reduce flood risks in preparation for 100-year flood events. This is especially important because in January 2024 San Diego County saw record flooding that prompted President Biden to issue a Major Disaster Declaration for San Diego.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.

This project has received support from the following local leaders including San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and Conty Supervisor Nora Vargas.

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 written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress