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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
51st District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTOR PROTECTION,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INSURANCE
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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
WESTERN HEMISPHERE, CIVILIAN SECURITY,
AND TRADE
MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA,
AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Rosa Delauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Palomar Street Light Rail Grade Separation project in fiscal year 2022, in the amount of \$2,000,000. The entity to receive funding for this project is the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), located at 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101.

The \$2 million towards the Palomar Street Light Rail Grade Separation project would complete Final Design for this long-awaited traffic and safety improvement project. The combination of increased traffic and wait times is anticipated to result in major traffic delays and diminish corridor travel times along the Blue Line Light Rail transit system.

For years now, this light rail crossing has been considered a priority grade separation project for the region. As Chula Vista continues to develop, traffic delays will only become worse, increasing greenhouse gas emissions and delaying critical goods movement. The proposed grade separation is intended to: improve traffic circulation and reduce delays and congestion; increase mobility in the region for all users; and enhance safety and increase ridership with improvements in travel times at the Palomar Street Trolley Station.

Once this project is ultimately constructed, it would serve as a more efficient means of travel for passengers connecting them to jobs, school, and other social/economic activities in a timelier manner. With improvements in travel times, it is anticipated to increase productivity for both passengers and goods movement, alike. Finally, the reduction in vehicle idle time will correspondingly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help the region meet its state mandated goals.

This project has written support from the following local stakeholders: Nora Vargas, Vice Chair and First District Supervisor, San Diego County Board of Supervisors; Ben Hueso, California State Senator of the 40th Senate District; Sharon Cooney, Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Transit System; J. Stuyvesant, President/CEO of the Port of San Diego; Jerry Sanders, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce; Danielle Berger, Director of Planning, Circulate San Diego; Lorena Gonzalez, California Assemblywoman of the eightieth district; and James O'Callaghan, President and CEO of the South County Economic Development Council.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

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

JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress