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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
52nd District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER, TASK FORCE ON
MONETARY POLICY, TREASURY MARKET RESILIENCE,
AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,
ILLICIT FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the County of San Diego Saturn Boulevard Stormwater Project in fiscal year 2027, in the amount of \$4,000,000. The entity to receive the funding is the County of San Diego, located at 5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 270 San Diego, California 92123.

The Saturn Boulevard crossing of the Tijuana River sits where the river's North Channel narrows into culverts and then spreads across a shallow "Arizona-style" crossing where slabs of pavement placed beneath low-flow streams allow vehicles to pass safely. For most of the year, water moves under the road through the culverts, but during storms the channel rises, water spreads out, and part of the flow moves over the roadway before rejoining the main river downstream. As currently designed, the Saturn Boulevard crossing creates turbulent hydraulic conditions that resuspend sewage-contaminated sediments and increase turbidity in the Tijuana River during high flow events. This project is designed to calm the flow so water no longer crashes out of the culverts, reducing both foam formation and the aerosolization of contaminants. To achieve this, a series of rock filled gabions would form a stepped structure that slows the water, filters low flows gently through rock and vegetation, and reduces the turbulence that leads to foaming. In doing so, the project supports nonpoint source pollution control methods consistent with the CWA.

This project is a good use of federal funds because the project will modify the culvert configuration to reduce turbulence, decrease sewage-contaminated water disturbance and reduce downstream transport of pollutant-laden sediments to the receiving waters and coastal estuary. By reducing the aerosolization of contaminated flows in the Tijuana River at the Saturn Boulevard culvert, the project will also deliver meaningful air-quality improvements for San Diego County residents, and in particular the residents of nearby communities, including the City of Imperial Beach.

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 broad support from a large network of partners and stakeholders, including San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, State Senator Stephen Padilla, and the Port of San Diego.

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

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Thank you for your consideration of funding for these programs. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my Senior Legislative Assistant, Michael Rivas, at michael.rivas@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juan Vargas".

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress