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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 Sweetwater Authority Urban Runoff Diversion System Year 1 Improvements project in fiscal year 2027, in the amount of \$1,000,000. The entity to receive the funding is Sweetwater Authority, located at 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910.

Sweetwater Authority's Urban Runoff Diversion System (URDS) is a critical water-quality protection system that prevents urban and agricultural runoff, pollutants, and potential hazardous spills from entering Sweetwater Reservoir—one of the primary drinking water sources for the South Bay region. After more than 30 years of continuous operation, many URDS components are showing signs of aging and require structural repairs, replacement, or upgrades to maintain their effectiveness. The requested federal funding would be used to fund this work, including structural rehabilitation, culvert replacement, spillway reconstruction, and pipeline upgrades necessary to ensure the URDS continues to function safely and reliably. The updated system will recapture storm water that will go into the reservoir where it will be treated. In doing so, the project will also allow the water authority to better control the amount of polluted stormwater that goes into the reservoir so it can more easily and efficiently treat the water in the reservoir.

This project is a good use of federal funds because these improvements will reduce the risk of untreated runoff entering Sweetwater Reservoir, protect drinking water quality for more than 200,000 residents, and ensure the system remains resilient to increasingly intense storm events driven by climate change.

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. The project directly supports Clean Water Act goals by preventing pollutant loading into a drinking water reservoir and maintaining critical stormwater diversion infrastructure.

This project has broad support from a large network of partners and stakeholders, including National City Acting City Manager Alejandro Hernandez, Chula Vista City Manager Tiffany Allen, and County Supervisor Paloma Aguirre.

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