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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 19, 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 Procurement of a Vessel to Support Port of San Diego's Harbor Police Department project in fiscal year 2027, in the amount of \$1,700,000. The entity to receive the funding is the San Diego Unified Port District - Harbor Police Department (or dba Port of San Diego's Harbor Police Department), located at 3380 N Harbor Drive San Diego, CA 92101-1023.

This project would procure a vessel to support the Port of San Diego's Harbor Police Department (HPD). HPD is the law enforcement agency that protects the Port of San Diego's jurisdiction, including the San Diego Bay and its shoreline and the San Diego International Airport. HPD has a vessel fleet that patrols San Diego Bay, where two vessels are deployed at all times. The Port and HPD have been in the process of replacing the fleet of vessels which has reached the end of its functional/operational service life after about 15 years in service. Once the vessels reach 15 years, they begin to experience significant maintenance issues, which preclude them from being deployed for law enforcement, port security, and homeland security missions. The Port and HPD have been successful at receiving funds for the replacement of four vessels. This project would fund the replacement of the final vessel in the fleet.

This project is a good use of federal funds because the maintenance issues experienced by the older vessels negatively impacts the HPD's ability to protect and patrol the San Diego Bay. In addition to patrolling, HPD vessels are also used for first response marine firefighting (not just in San Diego Bay, but County-wide to support regional coastal municipalities and federal partners such as the Navy and Coast Guard); rapid response to "All-Hazard" events, including Transportation Security Incidents that occur in the San Diego port area; escorting Cruise Vessels; supporting underwater security dives performed by the HPD SCUBA Dive team; collaborating with US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in interdicting criminal contraband smuggling efforts into the seaport through the Department of Homeland Security's "Operation Stonegarden"; and detecting nuclear threats that could come from recreational vessels traveling into San Diego's seaport. All critical maritime missions have resulted in the increased use of HPD vessels along with increased maintenance and, therefore, the vital need to replace the aging patrol firefighting vessels.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 1701(b)(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(9)).

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This project has broad support from a large network of partners and stakeholders, including San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava, City Councilmember Jennifer Campbell, Coronado City Manager Tina Friend, Chula Vista Mayor John McCann, and State Senator Stephen Padilla.

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

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