

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2244 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) 422-5863
FAX: (619) 422-7290

EL CENTRO OFFICE
380 NORTH 8TH STREET, #14
EL CENTRO, CA 92243
(760) 312-9900
FAX: (760) 312-9664



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
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AND TRADE
MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA,
AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

April 28, 2022

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 "Brandt Road Bridge Replacement Project" project in fiscal year 2023, in the amount of \$4,800,000. The entity to receive the funding is the County of Imperial, located at 940 W. Main Street, Suite 209, El Centro, CA 92243.

With the opportunity to develop lithium from the Salton Sea in California, the State created the Lithium Valley Commission to review, investigate, and analyze opportunities and benefits for lithium recovery and use in Imperial County. The Brandt Road Bridge is a main collector route which, at present, is primarily used by the agricultural industry to cross the Alamo River. However, the 72-year-old timber bridge will be a critical connection to the Lithium Valley development in the coming years. The age of the structure, coupled with the harsh environment and increased development, puts this bridge at risk of failing. The proposed new single span bridge would be built to current standards and improve the operational safety of the road and bridge crossing.

The Brandt Road Bridge project is important to the local community's economic development. The project is located in a Historically Disadvantaged Community and will be a critical connection to the Lithium Valley development, which will also benefit the state and the nation.

This project has received written support from Imperial County Transportation Commission and Imperial County.

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

Sincerely,

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress