

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2467 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) 422-5963
FAX: (619) 422-7290



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas

52nd District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

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ILLICIT FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies Washington,
D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree,

I am requesting funding for the “Beta Street Channel and Storm Drain Improvement Project” project in fiscal year 2026, in the amount of \$6,200,000. The entity to receive the funding is the City of San Diego, located at 202 C St. San Diego, CA 92101.

This project aims to alleviate flooding in the Southcrest community of San Diego by enhancing the drainage capacity of Chollas Creek and improving the drainage system to contain a 100-year storm event—safeguarding the community from potential flood risks. The existing flooding condition poses significant health and safety concerns for area residents, making the improvement crucial for the well-being of the community. The project consists of several components including a pump station, channel widening, a berm, flap gates, regrading, a concrete V-ditch, new storm drains, inlets and a new trail.

On January 22nd, 2024, the City of San Diego faced an unprecedented storm event. As a result, the community surrounding the South Las Chollas Creek Channel faced severe flooding and property damage resulting in a major federal disaster declaration. This capital improvement project would help provide much needed infrastructure enhancements that would also help mitigate future flooding impacts from severe storms.

This project is a good use of taxpayer resources because restoring the channel and establishing wetlands have significant direct benefits to water quality by filtering pollutants and contaminants from stormwater runoff. The project will also increase the capacity of the community’s drainage system to contain a 100-year storm event. Currently, the existing drainage system is unable to contain a 2-year storm event.

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 local leaders, including San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and County Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe.

Thank you for your consideration of funding for these programs. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my Deputy Chief of Staff, Erin Chapman at erin.chapman@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress