

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 “Sweetwater Authority Sodium Hypochlorite Chlorination System” project in fiscal year 2026, 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.

This project would replace the current gaseous chlorine system with a safer sodium hypochlorite (industrial strength bleach) chlorination system. The potential risks associated with sodium hypochlorite are considerably lower than those of gaseous chlorine, so replacing the gaseous chlorination system with sodium hypochlorite chlorination would significantly enhance both employee and community safety. The current gaseous chlorination system lacks a chlorine gas scrubber, which is crucial for containing large chlorine leaks safely. Because, unlike a gaseous system, a sodium hypochlorite system does not necessitate a gas scrubber, these upgrades will further enhance safety.

This project is a good use of federal funds because it will support the safer operation of the Perdue Water Treatment Plant, which is essential to providing drinking water service to approximately 200,000 people in National City, Bonita, and western and central portions of Chula Vista, California—a service area that is primarily made up of areas of persistent poverty and historically disadvantaged communities.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

This project has broad support from local leaders, including at the city of National City.

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 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