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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 23, 2025

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Clyburn,

I am requesting funding for the “Tijuana River Revitalization” project in fiscal year 2026, in the amount of \$1,000,000. The entity to receive the funding is the County of San Diego, located at 1600 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92101.

For many decades, polluted water flowing from Mexico through the Tijuana River has been a persistent environmental hazard for residents of the South Bay region of San Diego. This project would rehabilitate property owned by the County of San Diego by removing trash, debris, and non-native plant species from a critical habitat area immediately downstream of federal infrastructure and property. The area—which is located within the Tijuana River Valley and adjacent to Dairy Mart Pond—is currently inundated with debris and non-native vegetation, which often leads to an accumulation of sediment and debris and reduced hydrological function. By removing trash, debris, and non-native vegetation and installing irrigation and native plants, the project will rehabilitate the area and allow for a more efficient flow of the river in this portion of the Tijuana River.

This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because removing trash and debris and installing native plants will help to mitigate environmental hazards and facilitate a more efficient flow of the river. By rehabilitating and revitalizing this portion of the Tijuana River Valley, the project will also improve the overall quality of life for San Diego County residents.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 USC 5305(2) and (4).

This project has community support, including from San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and State Senator Stephen Padilla.

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

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