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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
51st District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
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MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA,
AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

June 3, 2021

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 "Salton Sea Restoration, CA" project in fiscal year 2022, in the amount of \$300,000. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Army Corps of Engineers, located at 915 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90017. The intended project sponsor is the Salton Sea Authority, located at 82995 Hwy 111, Suite 200, Indio, CA 92201.

Wind-blown contaminants from exposed playa have created a significant public health crisis for the disadvantaged communities surrounding the Sea, which are burdened by extremely high rates of respiratory disease. The \$300,000 will support the Army Corps' estimated funding needed to begin the Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Feasibility Study. Diminished inflows to the sea have resulted in the exposure of over 30,000 acres of Salton Sea playa, or lakebed, which is comprised of pesticides and hazardous substances. This study will evaluate creating a Salton Sea Perimeter Lake through a berm system to divert inflows to shallow and deep-water habitat cells, anticipated to provide habitat, air quality, and public health benefits in the region.

The project has received written support from the Salton Sea Authority member agencies, which include Imperial Irrigation District, the Torres Martinez Tribe, Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial County and Riverside County.

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

Sincerely,

JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress