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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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AND TRADE
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 Research Project" project in fiscal year 2022, in the amount of \$546,000. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Bureau of Reclamation located at 500 Fir St Boulder City, Nevada, CA 89005. The intended project sponsor is the University of California, Riverside, located at 900 University Ave., Riverside, CA 92521.

Funding in the amount of \$496,000 will be used toward a study led by the University of California, Riverside in conjunction with the Bureau of Reclamation, that would collect Salton Sea water, lake sediments, playa surface and subsurface soil, and dust generated at areas with exposed playa, and further from the sea. After consultation with officials at the Bureau of Reclamation, I am requesting an additional \$50,000 to support the Bureau's processing of agreements for the study's completion.

The proposed study will provide a clear scientific documentation of the composition of key environmental components in Salton Sea water and shoreline sediments at the shoreline versus surface playa, playa-generated aerosol dust, and dust collected further distant from the sea. The results will provide information on whether aerosol particles generated at the playa are selectively concentrating specific components that may be toxic, and whether ongoing dust mitigation strategies have an effect on possible toxin enrichment. This project will directly address the health impacts of the environmental crisis at the Salton Sea, and its disparate impact on the Indigenous and Latino communities in the region. The research will also provide important data on the sources of toxic dust in the region and assessment of benefits, if any, from ongoing and planned dust mitigation projects in the region. The project has received written support from the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the UC Riverside Chancellor.

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

Sincerely,

JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress