

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 11, 2024

Lt. Col. Timothy W. Shebesta
Commander and District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District
450 Golden Gate Avenue, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Lt. Col. Shebesta,

We write in strong support of the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County's (RCDMC) request for technical assistance under the Planning Assistance to States program and for RCDMC's fee waiver request. We believe that decreasing flood risk along the Salinas River is vital to protecting the lives and wellbeing of our constituents.

As you know, the 2023 winter storms caused significant flooding and damages in the Salinas Valley. Flooding from the Salinas River devastated multiple communities and productive agricultural land. With climate change driving more frequent and damaging storms, we remain concerned that the region needs improved flood risk management to avoid experiencing catastrophic flooding again.

Following the 2023 floods, RCDMC and other local partners collected LiDAR data with the intention of improving the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program to reduce flood risk—an effort we strongly support. It is our understanding that RCDMC has now requested technical assistance with reviewing the LiDAR data to improve modeling and identify priority risk reduction strategies. We believe that this technical assistance would be an important step toward protecting our constituents.

We also support RCDMC's request for a fee waiver under Section 8119 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-16). Multiple communities we represent along the Salinas River are economically disadvantaged. The requested technical assistance would directly benefit these disadvantaged communities by reducing the flood risk they face.

We request that you give RCDMC's requests for technical assistance and a fee waiver full and fair consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress