

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

**ZOE LOFGREN**

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March 20, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Cesar Chavez Stormwater Basin Drainage Improvements project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Salinas, located at 200 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas, California 93901.

The funding would be used to rehabilitate and modernize the aging stormwater infrastructure within Cesar Chavez Community Park, including replacement of failing corrugated metal pipes with high-capacity HDPE storm drains, sediment removal and basin regrading to restore approximately 4 acre-feet of storage capacity, and installation of advanced dry well systems to enhance stormwater infiltration and improve water quality entering the Monterey Bay watershed.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Cesar Chavez Community Park serves as the primary stormwater management asset for a 1,000-acre urban watershed in Salinas. The existing infrastructure is clogged, hydraulically disconnected, and prone to overtopping in events as common as a 10-year storm, placing approximately 25,000 residents in high-density neighborhoods and schools at risk of flooding and property damage. The project also advances water quality goals by integrating nature-based infiltration and filtration systems that reduce urban runoff entering the Monterey County Reclamation Ditch and ultimately the Monterey Bay.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., and is eligible under the EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund as authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, specifically Section 603(c), which authorizes the use of funds for construction of publicly owned treatment works and implementation of management programs for controlling nonpoint source pollution.

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

Sincerely,



**Zoe Lofgren**

Member of Congress

California's 18th Congressional District