

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

ZOE LOFGREN

18TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

[HTTPS://LOFGREN.HOUSE.GOV](https://lofgren.house.gov)

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March 20, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Pajaro River at Watsonville, CA project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency, located at 701 Ocean Street, Room 410, Santa Cruz, California 95060.

The funding would be used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue reconstruction of failing flood control levees along the Pajaro River and its tributaries in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Pajaro River levee system has failed catastrophically five times since 1949, most recently in March 2023 when a 400-foot breach caused over \$300 million in damages and forced approximately 3,500 residents of the Town of Pajaro to evacuate. The affected communities are predominantly low-income and Latino agricultural communities with limited capacity to absorb repeated flood losses. This project permanently resolves that cycle of failure. The project has received prior CPF funding in FY24, FY25, and FY26, and \$149 million in IIJA workplan funding has already been obligated, demonstrating strong federal commitment and program continuity.

The project has a federal nexus because it was authorized by Congress under P.L. 89-789, Section 203, and is eligible for Army Corps of Engineers Construction account funding.

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