

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

ZOE LOFGREN

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Advancing Solutions for Flood Risk Reduction, Groundwater Recharge, Water Quality Improvement, and Habitat Enhancement in the Salinas River Watershed project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County, located at 744 La Guardia Street, Suite A, Salinas, California 93933.

The funding would be used to continue and expand the Salinas River Arundo Eradication and Stream Maintenance Programs, including eradication of invasive Arundo donax, stream maintenance activities, development of a watershed restoration strategy, and technical assistance to agricultural producers on erosion control, runoff management, irrigation, and water quality practices.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Salinas River watershed supports some of the most productive agricultural land in the United States, and the 2023 Salinas River floods caused hundreds of millions of dollars in crop and property damage. These are the only permitted large-scale flood risk reduction programs along the river, with a proven track record since 2014 and broad support from the agricultural community, state and county agencies, and conservation organizations. Federal investment leverages substantial private and state contributions and provides critical match for additional state funding currently being pursued.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under the Food Security Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198), as amended, which directs the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide technical and financial assistance for the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. This project is directly aligned with the NRCS Conservation Operations mission to protect agricultural land and conserve natural resources on non-federal lands.

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