

RAUL RUIZ, M.D.

36TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0536

February 3, 2020

Stephen O. Nnodim
Acting Single Family Housing Program Director
USDA Rural Development
430 G Street, Agency # 4169
Davis, CA 95616-4169

Re: USDA-RD Grant Application

Dear Mr. Nnodim:

I write in support of the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition (CVHC) and its application for funding under the USDA-Rural Development Section 523 Self Help Technical Assistance Grant. Funding from this grant would allow the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition to continue providing housing opportunities for the communities I serve in Riverside County, as well as surrounding San Bernardino and Imperial Counties.

In recent months, Southern California has experienced a steady increase in home prices. In December 2019, the six-county median sales price peaked at \$550,000, a 7.2 percent increase from December 2018. In Riverside County, the median home price increased by 6.9 percent. As home prices continue to rise, it is essential that Southern California residents, especially low-income families in underserved communities, are provided with safe and affordable housing options.

Since 1982, CVHC has worked to meet its main objective to build affordable housing in areas where the needs of farmworkers and low-income families are not being met. Also, CVHC is one of the largest self-help housing developers in the United States. To date, CVHC has constructed more than 1,850 homes through the USDA Mutual Self-Help Program.

CVHC has a proven history of providing exceptional housing options for thousands of low-income individuals residing in Riverside County, particularly in rural communities such as Mecca and Coachella. CVHC is, therefore, well-positioned to continue meeting the housing needs of our community by building exemplary and affordable homes through the USDA-Rural Development Section 523 Self Help Technical Assistance Grant.

As a physician and the Representative of California's 36th Congressional District, I understand that adequate and affordable housing is essential to the health and well-being of a community. That is why I support CVHC and its mission to develop safe and housing for the families and individuals I serve.

I believe that the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition is a deserving candidate for your grant program. I support their application and urge you to give full and fair consideration to their application, consistent with all relevant program rules and regulations. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact my Palm Desert office at 760-424-8888.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Raul Ruiz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress