



RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress
36th District of California

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the County of Imperial- Gentry Road Bridge Rehabilitation Project in Fiscal Year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the County of Imperial at 940 W. Main Street, Suite 209, El Centro, CA 92243.

The funding would be used to rehabilitating the existing 45-year old concrete slab bridge on Gentry Road at the New River to meet current standards and improve operational safety of the roadway and bridge crossing.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this bridge will serve and support the existing agricultural areas, as well as the proposed renewable resource area, known as Lithium Valley. The bridge is on a key transportation route along Gentry Road. This is also a main collector route used by the current agricultural industry. Peak harvesting periods see these roads filled with farm workers, equipment, and trucks hauling within the renewable energy zone and outside the Imperial Valley to markets in the southern California region. The burgeoning Lithium Valley development will certainly add to the infrastructure load risk.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in 23 USC 133. Eligible projects.--Funds apportioned to a State under section 104(b)(2) for the surface transportation block grant program.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.



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Sincerely,


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