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April 25, 2022

The Honorable David E. Price  
Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Subcommittee on THUD

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Subcommittee on THUD

Dear Chair Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart,

I am requesting \$380,000 under the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Economic Development Initiative (EDI) program for the City of Somerton's Public Works Drinking Water Storage Facilities steel water storage tank repairs in fiscal year 2023.

The City of Somerton is requesting funding for one of the most critical infrastructure priorities in their community – ensuring the reliable delivery of safe drinking water to their service population, both incorporated boundaries and county islands. The City of Somerton is a border community, with a population of over 15,000 and is situated in the largest agricultural region in Yuma County, Arizona. Somerton is a designated, historically distressed community, opportunity zone and is a predominately low- moderate income community.

This total project cost is \$1.1 million and this proposal requests \$380,000 to initiate and complete the second phase of the overall repairs associated with the city's water storage facilities. The project is a priority because the tank was constructed in 1977-79 and has storage capacity of approximately 1 million gallons. Last year, an exterior and interior evaluation of the water storage tank was conducted. The final report cited major interior structural failures pertaining to the steel roof, rafters, hinged shell manway, interior caged ladder and cited other necessary upgrades and improvements by replacing the tank's shell top portion which the report deemed as unacceptable for continued usage. During the inspection specific areas of the tank's interior were considered unsafe for further examination and evaluation. The tank's overall exterior condition is in fair to poor condition and requires attention. City of Somerton applied for and secured Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona funds in 2021 to complete significant repairs associated with two steel water tanks. Now that the first phase is completed, Somerton is prepared to initiate the second and final phase on the Somerton Public Works Drinking Water Storage Facilities steel water storage tank repairs. Based on the report findings, the city intends to utilize the obligated Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona ("WIFA") DW 2020-002 funds of \$720,000 for repairs but requires an additional \$380,000, necessary to complete the project.

The funding will be used in part to remove and replace the existing steel roof and rafters, remove and replace existing tank top portion, abandon existing floor drainpipe and replace with 2-inch drainpipe, install new tank overflow inlet cone and modify existing tank overflow pipe and install new tank shell exterior caged ladder.

The project can obligate all appropriated funds within 12 months after enactment and it is “shovel ready” with all federal, state, and local guidelines in place including 100% design, complete construction documents and plans and an approved contractor to initiate upon notice.

The project has broad community support and is located in a predominantly low-income area. Project supporters include the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona, Cocopah Indian Tribe, Yuma County, Yuma Union High School District and Somerton Elementary Unified School District No. 11. This project is a good use of taxpayer funding because it will complete major structural repairs associated with one of the largest water supply storage tanks in Somerton.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'G'.

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress