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April 25, 2022

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Chairwoman
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies

Dear Chair Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce,

I am requesting \$1,200,000 under the Environmental Protection Agency State and Tribal Assistance Grants account for Pima County to construct a storm drain to address stormwater flooding and drainage impacts in the underserved communities of Elvira and Barrio Nopal for fiscal year 2023.

The project would gather flood flows from Tucson International Airport, a civil-military airport owned by the City of Tucson and convey them in a stormwater drain to the improved El Vado Wash channel. The stormwater drain will tie into the culvert beneath Nogales Highway connecting to an existing system within El Vado Road thereby out letting to El Vado Wash downstream of South Sixth Avenue.

The total project cost is \$1.5 million, with Pima County providing \$300,000 in funds which represents a 20% match. The public, as well as 40 homes, will benefit greatly from the project due to reduced risk of flooding, improved transportation reliability, and the potential for additional open space. The project lies in one of Pima County's higher-concentration census tracts of poverty and racial and ethnic minority representation. One in three individuals in this Census Tract had incomes below the poverty level before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The use of stormwater infrastructure provides an opportunity to revegetate the area, with benefits including shade, better water quality, traffic calming, community gathering space, and reduced urban heat generation, making the area more resilient with respect to future climate scenarios.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress