

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
7TH DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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May 1, 2024

Representative Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting \$630,000 in funding for Base and Meridian Wildlife Restoration project for fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is City of Avondale, located 11465 Civic Center Dr, Avondale, AZ 85323. The funding will be used towards repairs in the lush and scenic Tres Rios Wetlands area. It will allow for safe and accessible walking paths along the trail system as well as repairing the access points for kayaks and canoes to launch into the waterways. The materials will also create safe accessibility into the wetlands for those with disabilities. Additionally, this first phase of restoration work will provide information on the extent of previous damage to the area.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because at the convergence of the Gila, Salt and Agua Fria rivers in the Southwest Valley is a thriving home to more than 150 different species of birds, plants, and mammals. This unique and vibrant area in Avondale offers hiking, bird watching, kayaking, and fishing to thousands of visitors each year including tourists, photographers, researchers, and school groups. Without these repairs, activities such as hiking, canoeing, and kayaking as well as events such as the annual Tres Rios Nature Festival, will no longer be feasible or safe due to the current state of the property.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress