

**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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CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS  
CHAIR EMERITUS

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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May 3, 2024

Representative Tom Cole  
Chair  
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 Harris and Ranking Member Bishop,

I am requesting funding for the Orange Grove and Rancho Mesa Verde Sewer Services project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is County of Yuma, located at 198 S. Main St., Yuma, AZ 85364, on behalf of Orange Grove & Rancho Mesa Verde Subdivisions in Somerton, AZ. The funding would be used for the critical project of providing sewer services to the Orange Grove (OG) and Rancho Mesa Verde (RMV) subdivisions in Somerton, Arizona. The project aims to address the significant health and safety concerns posed by inadequate wastewater management systems in these low-income, high-density housing units.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it is a vital investment in mitigating health risks associated with inadequate wastewater management, reducing the likelihood of waterborne illnesses, and improving overall public health and safety in the OGRMV subdivisions. Additionally, it aligns with the county's commitment to upgrading essential infrastructure and ensuring access to safe and reliable sanitation services for all residents.

By proposing to install wastewater collection lines to approximately 332 existing home sites and connecting them to the existing City of Somerton wastewater collection system, this project aims to mitigate the risk of waterborne illnesses and contamination to residents in the OGRMV subdivisions.

The current use of septic systems in these areas falls short of health and safety standards, posing significant risks of cross-contamination and environmental degradation. Moreover, the insufficient space for adequate water line and wastewater line separation exacerbates these risks, underscoring the urgent need for improved infrastructure. The comprehensive sewer conveyance system outlined in the proposal, including house connection sewers, collection systems, lift stations, and force mains, demonstrates a thorough and well-planned approach to address these challenges effectively. With an estimated project cost of \$22 million, funding for the final design

and right-of-way acquisition is critical to ensure the timely and successful implementation of this vital infrastructure project.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'R' at the beginning.

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress