

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

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May 3, 2024

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior and Environment

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior and Environment

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree,

I am requesting \$1,293,472 under the FY 25 Environmental Protection Agency State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) program for the Orange Grove and Rancho Mesa Verde Sewer Services project in Somerton, AZ.

Yuma County, in collaboration with the Orange Grove and Rancho Mesa Verde Improvement District, is seeking federal funding assistance for the critical project of providing sewer services to the Orange Grove and Rancho Mesa Verde 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 total project cost is estimated at \$22,000,000, and the requested federal funding, totaling \$1,293,472, will primarily be allocated towards the final design and right-of-way acquisition of the proposed wastewater collection and conveyance system. This funding will support the following key components of the sewer conveyance system:

- **Final Design:** A significant portion of the funding will be dedicated to the final design of the wastewater collection and conveyance system. This includes the development of detailed engineering plans and specifications necessary for the implementation of the project. The final design phase is crucial for ensuring the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the sewer system, as well as compliance with regulatory requirements.
- **Right-of-Way Acquisition:** Funds will also be allocated towards the acquisition of the necessary right-of-way for the installation of sewer lines and infrastructure. Securing the appropriate right-of-way is essential for the successful implementation of the project, as it ensures access to the required land for construction activities and infrastructure placement.

The federal funding will enable Yuma County and the Improvement District to proceed with the crucial final design phase and secure the necessary right-of-way for the wastewater collection and conveyance system. This investment is vital for mitigating health risks associated with inadequate wastewater management, reducing the likelihood of waterborne illnesses, and

improving overall public health and safety in the Orange Grove and Rancho Mesa Verde 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.

Primary supporters include the Mayor of Somerton, the Yuma County Board of Supervisors, and local community members. This project meets all requirements, is shovel ready, and can obligate funds within a year. Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

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