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May 23, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

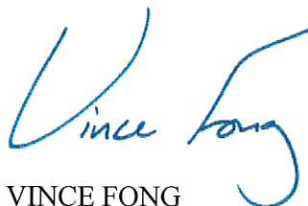
I am requesting funding for the Kern Fan Groundwater Recharge Basin Project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Bureau of Reclamation, South-Central California Area Office, 1243 N Street, Fresno, California 93721.

The South Valley Project phase of the Kern Fan Groundwater Recharge Basin Project, developed by the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District and Irvine Ranch Water District, creates a new stand-alone regional water bank and the Joint Use Canal, a new conveyance facility that will add capacity within the region to maximize the capture of flood flows for storage within the Central Valley. This funding will be used to help complete final design and, pending environmental approvals, begin construction of the regional water bank for the South Valley Project. The funding is scalable and will go towards land acquisition and related expansion of the water bank. Upon completion, this project will create 26,000-acre feet of storage through a regional water bank with a 450 cfs conveyance facility.

This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will secure greater water supply certainty for communities and farmers in the southern Central Valley who experience boom-and-bust cycles of water availability. The South Valley Project portion of the Kern Fan Groundwater Recharge Basin Project is a needed investment into combating subsidence, banking water for dry years, and enhancing community and economic health.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for planning, design, and construction funding under the Small Storage Program (43 USC 3203). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



VINCE FONG  
Member of Congress