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May 23, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Westlands Water District Aquifer Storage and Recovery and Percolation Facilities for Groundwater Sustainability Project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Bureau of Reclamation, South-Central California Area Office, 1243 North Street, Fresno, California 93721.

This request will allow Westlands Water District to construct and utilize Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells and percolation facilities, which improves the region's water supply and guards against subsidence. This funding will directly fund an ASR well, which will inject water directly into the lower aquifer beneath the Corcoran Clay layer, where natural infiltration is not feasible. These wells are essential for stabilizing subsidence in a region that historically suffers from groundwater challenges, threatening critical infrastructure like the California Aqueduct and the San Luis Canal. Aquifer storage is essential to both the community and economy of the region, which is home to some of the most productive agricultural land in the United States. These investments will expand drought resilience, reduce land subsidence, and support long-term groundwater sustainability in Kings County, which historically suffers from major water supply availability issues.

This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it provides meaningful aquifer storage and groundwater recharge for a region that suffers from severe subsidence and surface water scarcity.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vince Fong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vince" and last name "Fong" clearly distinguishable.

VINCE FONG  
Member of Congress