

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2026

The Honorable Scott J. Cameron
Acting Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner Cameron,

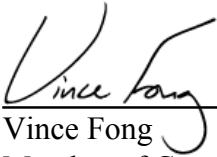
I am writing to express my strong support for the grant application submitted by the Irvine Ranch Water District and the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District to the Bureau of Reclamation's Small Storage Grant Program seeking \$25 million to support the South Valley Conveyance Project located in Kern County, California.

Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage (Rosedale) and the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) are partnering to develop the South Valley Conveyance and Storage Project (South Valley Project). This new regional water bank in Kern County expands on the Kern Fan Groundwater Recharge Project by creating additional groundwater sources and implementing new conveyance facilities. This will boost regional capacity and enhance the capture and storage of flood flows within the Central Valley. This is essential to stabilizing water availability in this agriculturally productive region. California's farmers supply 40% of the United States' fruits and vegetables, and without additional water storage, our producers' ability to continue to meet the rising demand of fresh produce will be put in jeopardy.

The South Valley Project will greatly improve water supply reliability for agriculture and our communities, especially during drought periods and other emergencies. It also enhances groundwater levels, which will improve long-term water sustainability in the Kern County Subbasin and benefit our agricultural communities. By providing a reliable water supply, this Project will create approximately 300 acres of new critical intermittent wetland habitat along the Pacific Flyway and preserve existing agricultural land in the Central Valley. Additionally, the South Valley Project will address conveyance capacity constraints during high-demand periods in the Central Valley, allowing excess supplies to be captured and stored.

IRWD and Rosedale are well equipped to support this Project's goal to provide urban and agricultural benefits, such as improved water storage, enhanced water reliability, and preservation of agricultural land. We respectfully request your full and fair consideration in providing \$25 million request to support Rosedale and IRWD's next phase of the South Valley Conveyance Project in Kern County. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vince Fong", written over a horizontal line.

Vince Fong
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David G. Valadao", written over a horizontal line.

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress