

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As you prepare your Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to provide at least \$121 million for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Investigations account to support ongoing aquatic ecosystem restoration project studies and preconstruction engineering and design activities. Our request is consistent with the Fiscal Year 2016 enacted level funding. This year, President Obama's Fiscal Year 2017 budget only requests \$85 million for this overall account, and we have concerns that it does not reflect nor address the scope of funding necessary to complete pending studies for these kinds of projects. In the past, the Committee has echoed similar concerns and increased funding for this account accordingly.

Aquatic ecosystem restoration is one of the most important aspects of the Corps' mission. Many of our nation's once pristine waterways are damaged and distressed, not only affecting our ecological health, but also those who live in the surrounding areas. By working to restore these neglected ecosystems to their original condition, we can protect our natural resources, promote environmental sustainability, and spur local economic and job growth around these spaces.

From our nation's heartland all the way to Los Angeles, our lands and waters are truly breathtaking. All Americans should have the opportunity to enjoy and take pride in the stewardship of the environment. With projects like Los Angeles Ecosystem Restoration Project and others that have signed favorable Chief's Reports, a commitment to providing additional funds for ongoing studies will reflect the importance of bringing these projects from concept to reality. These studies help inform decisions regarding feasibility, local impact, and construction

design preparation. While we understand that difficult budget decisions must be made, it's imperative that these studies be completed to lay the groundwork for future projects.

As such, we respectfully urge you to provide at least \$121 million in funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Fiscal Year 2017 Investigations account including additional support for ongoing aquatic ecosystem restoration project studies and preconstruction engineering and design activities. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or have your staff contact Kwabena Nsiah with Congressman Xavier Becerra at [Kwabena.Nsiah@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kwabena.Nsiah@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



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XAVIER BECERRA  
Member of Congress



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LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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KAREN BASS  
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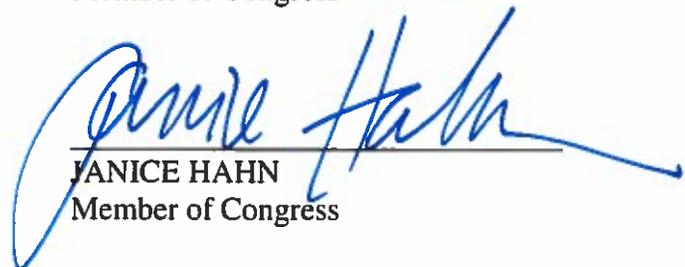
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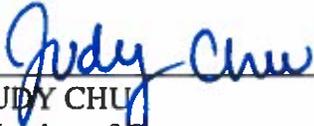
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