



JOHN GARAMENDI
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger, Chairwoman
The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, Ranking
Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann, Chairman
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member
Energy and Water Development, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations

RE: Mare Island Strait Feasibility Cost Share Agreement

Dear Chairs Granger and Fleischmann and Ranking Members DeLauro and Kaptur:

I respectfully request \$3 million in Community Project Funding for the City of Vallejo to enter into a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Army Corps with the City of Vallejo as the non-federal partner located at 555 Santa Clara Street, Floor 3, Vallejo, CA 94590-5939.

This Feasibility Cost Share Agreement will examine the much-needed modification of the existing the Marie Island Strait ship channel to accommodate larger vessels to support the U.S. military including the Coast Guard. The Army Corps last performed maintenance dredging of the Mare Island Strait in 1994, coinciding with the closure of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. However, the ongoing redevelopment of Mare Island and expansion of current shipbuilding and repair industries along the Strait require a deeper channel, with opportunities for beneficial use of dredged sediment at nearby disposal sites already utilized by the Army Corps.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Army Corps' workplan for fiscal year 2023 allocates \$1,545,000 for maintenance dredging of the Mare Island Strait. However, these commercial proposals require deepening of the channel to accommodate larger military, Coast Guard, and commercial vessels. I secured Section 8203(1) of the *Water Resources Development Act of 2022* (Title LXXXI of Public Law 117-263) directing the Army Corps to complete a feasibility study for navigation that considers the economic and national security benefits from recent proposals for utilization of the channel for Department of Defense shipbuilding and vessel repair at commercial shipyards on Mare Island. This proposed Feasibility Cost Share Agreement with the City of Vallejo supports that work.

The project has a clear Federal nexus because the funding to-be provided supports the Army Corps San Francisco District's (SPN) dredging of the San Pablo Bay and Mare Island Strait, CA, as authorized under Section 509(a)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-303).

Pursuant to Clause, 17 of Rule XXIII of the U.S. House of Representatives, I certify that I have no financial interest in this project and neither does my immediate family. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Garamendi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Garamendi" clearly distinguishable.

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress