

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 19, 2021

The Honorable Michael L. Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Army for
Civil Works
Headquarters
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

LTG Scott A. Spellmon
Chief of Engineers and Commanding
General
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Secretary Connor and General Spellmon:

We write to request that when you allocate the funding provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law No: 117-58), Division J, Title III, you consider including funding Investigations and Construction for the South Platte River and Tributaries, Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado, project.

The City and County of Denver, working with the USACE Omaha District, is requesting \$4 million in Investigations funding to complete Pre-Construction Engineering and Design for the most urgently needed project reach of the South Platte River. The city is also requesting a New Construction Start and \$100 million in Construction funding to move forward with the project implementation.

The project is the result of continued work by the City and County of Denver, Adams County, the Colorado delegation, Congressional authorizing committees, and USACE resulting in the authorization's inclusion in the Water Resources Development Act of 2020. The project is unique in that it is the only project in the final legislation with a dual authorization - ecosystem restoration and flood risk management.

The project would restore nearly 450 acres of critical riparian and wetland habitat along the South Platte River corridor, protect approximately 460 homes and businesses from flooding during a 1% Annual Chance Exceedance (100-year event), and relieving the majority of these estimated 460 structures from the flood insurance requirement. In addition, voluntary nonstructural flood risk management measures would be available to approximately 176 structures that would substantially reduce the flood risk for these homes and businesses along Harvard Gulch. These voluntary measures would be especially important as many of these structures lie within economically disadvantaged, and Environmental Justice communities who can least afford to bear the costs of damaging floods.

Again, we urge you to consider the South Platte River and Tributaries, Adams and Denver Counties, Colorado, project request for allocation of funding and New Start designation so that this project can move forward as soon as possible.

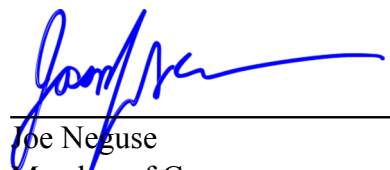
Sincerely,



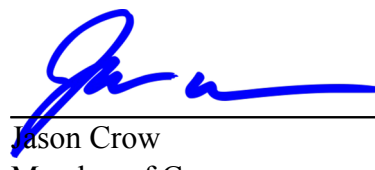
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress