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SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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May 20, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Ventura County Agricultural Training, Resource, and Community Center in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the County of Ventura located at 800 S. Victoria Ave. Ventura, CA 93009.

The funding would be used for repurposing and renovation of an old, non-ADA compliant, two-story barn into an accessible, fully functional, modern multi-purpose community center. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will advance the County of Ventura's Agriculture/Weights & Measures (AWM) regional mission to protect and promote agriculture, ensure equity in the marketplace, and safeguard public health, industry, and the environment. By establishing a centralized, accessible facility focused on agricultural education, workforce training, and community-based services, the County will significantly expand its capacity to provide in-person support and outreach.

As a priority initiative, this project strengthens Ventura County's ability to deliver critical programs that address complex regulatory, operational, and public-interest topics. It eliminates barriers to participation in services that directly support economic productivity, public safety, and environmental stewardship. The facility will also enable closer coordination with city governments, community organizations, and key stakeholders in responding to agricultural and environmental threats, fostering a collaborative space where education, innovation, and regulatory compliance intersect.

In particular, the project will enhance economic productivity by supporting job training and workforce retention in the agriculture and environmental sectors. It will offer continuing education opportunities for licensed pest control professionals, qualified applicators, and agricultural workers—helping both individuals and the broader region adapt to changing regulatory demands and industry best practices.

The facility will promote public safety and hazard mitigation through training on emerging priorities, such as wildfire preparedness under the Agricultural Pass Program and evolving state regulations around fumigants and pesticides. It will also serve as a hub for public engagement, informing local residents about urgent issues like invasive plant species, unsafe pesticide practices, and the risks associated with unregulated e-commerce introducing invasive pests. Public education campaigns will help communities navigate the state's new pesticide notification system and understand the biological and economic impact of invasive threats.

Overall, this project represents a strategic investment in Ventura County's future—building a stronger, safer, and more resilient agricultural economy while improving equity, public access, and community preparedness across the region.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

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, appearing to read "Julia Brownley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress