



# Congressman Henry Cuellar

## 2009 Federal Appropriations Requests

April 3, 2009

Dear Friend:

As your representative in Congress, one of my foremost duties is to help ensure that South Texas receives our fair share of federal funding.

As you may know, each year Congress passes budget and appropriations bills to fund national priorities such as infrastructure, education, law enforcement, and defense. These funds may be disbursed in either of two ways: through block funding to government agencies or through direct funding of specific projects.

Each method serves an important purpose. Money provided to agencies accounts for approximately 99% of discretionary federal spending, and it provides for the day-to-day financing of most federal activities. The remaining 1% is directed by lawmakers to specific projects, a practice that dates back for centuries and that allows Members of Congress – who are directly accountable to local voters – to give their communities a voice in federal spending.

One of my priorities in Congress is to ensure that all federal taxpayer dollars are spent as effectively and accountably as possible, and in the case of direct appropriations, also known as “earmarks,” this requires lawmakers to be forthright and transparent throughout the appropriations process. In early 2006, I supported rules requiring every earmark enacted into law to include the name of its sponsor and requiring Members of Congress to sign sworn declarations that they have no financial stake in the appropriations that they request. Together, these measures have helped to cut earmarked spending by over 40% in just the last two years.

These were major first steps toward accountability, and the attached document represents the next step forward. It lists all of my office’s appropriations requests for the 2010 fiscal year, including the name of the project, the amount requested, and an explanation of why the project would be an effective use of federal funds. These requests were submitted to me by government and nonprofit agencies across the Texas 28<sup>th</sup> District and are now pending before the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, which will decide which projects to include in the final 2010 appropriations bills.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our district’s requests for federal funding. I appreciate your participation in the appropriations process.

Sincerely,

Henry Cuellar, Ph.D.  
U.S. Congressman  
Texas 28<sup>th</sup> District



101 S. Commerce Pearsall, Texas 78061

Floresville PD Atascosa County  
800 10<sup>th</sup> St. #5 1 Courthouse Circle Dr, Ste 101  
Floresville, Texas 78114 Jourdanton, Texas 78026

**Facility Modification for CID Unit**

For the construction of a 4,800 sq. ft. facility to house the Texas Army National Guard's new Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Battalion in Laredo, TX. It will be constructed east of the existing readiness center in an enclosed, secure area.

**Requested Amount:** \$740,000

**Recipient:** Laredo Armory

**Address:** P.O. Box 5218  
Austin, Texas 78763

**Floresville Water Treatment Plant expansion**

Plant improvements will be made to address current deficiencies and provide for the fixture plant needs. Based on 10-year Wastewater System Master Plan Report, the design capacity for the next plant expansion should be 1.35 MGD.

**Request Amount:** \$1,000,000

**Recipient:** City of Floresville

**Address:** 1120 D Street  
Floresville, Texas 78114

**Frio County Emergency Management Facility**

To enhance disaster preparedness by serving as a central location for emergency management personnel to coordinate responses to a potential disaster. This location would also serve to train first responders and emergency coordinators to prepare for public emergencies.

**Request Amount:** \$500,000

**Recipient:** Frio County

**Address:** 500 E. San Antonio St.  
Pearsall, Texas 78061

**Gateway Community Clinic**

Funding would provide for a comprehensive community based assessment by which a wide cross-section of the community residents, business and civic leaders, the educational community, and the health care sector could work together to identify a prioritized list of community problems and together develop an action plan.

**Requested Amount:** \$200,000

**Recipient:** City of Laredo

**Address:** P.O. Box 579  
1110 Houston St.  
Laredo, Texas 78040

**Haven for Hope Campus Project**

This project will serve homeless citizens while also providing new jobs for 34 case managers. It will also greatly increase efficiency by creating and maintaining a shared database which will eliminate duplicated and misused resources.

**Request Amount:** \$800,000

**Recipient:** Haven for Hope of Bexar County

**Address:** One Haven for Hope Way  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

**Hidalgo (City) Advanced Emergency Response Wireless Mesh Network**

This program will create a wireless broadband network to serve as an integrated internet-based public alert and warning communication system to educate and assist the public in responding to emergencies and natural disasters.

**Request Amount:** \$500,000

**Recipient:** City of Hidalgo

**Address:** 704 E. Texano Dr.  
Hidalgo, Texas 78557

**Hidalgo (City) Old town Site Drainage**

This is a project to enlarge and repair the existing drainage, water and sewer lines in the Old Town site area.

**Request Amount:** \$300,000

**Recipient:** City of Hidalgo

**Address:** 704 E. Texano Dr.  
Hidalgo, Texas 78557

**Clean Water Supply Drinking Well**

This project will provide the City of La Vernia with a new water well to supply water to its customers.

**Request Amount:** \$1,000,000

**Recipient:** City of La Vernia

**Address:** P.O. Box 225  
La Vernia, Texas 78121

**Laredo Community College Small Business Center**

To develop a petrochemical small business center at Laredo Community College.

**Request Amount:** \$250,000

**Recipient:** Laredo Community College

**Address:** 5500 S. Zapata Hwy  
Laredo, Texas 78045

**Laredo Little Theatre – Laredo, TX**

This request will provide funding for a live community non-profit theatre to replace worn-out, outdated electronic equipment such as a light board, light fixtures, electrical

wiring and audio equipment. It will also be used to replace worn auditorium seating and sound proofing materials.

**Request Amount:** \$300,000

**Recipient:** City of Laredo

**Address:** P.O. Box 2266  
Laredo, Texas 78044

### **Manadas Hike and Bike Pathways - Laredo, TX**

The project will consist of approximately 80,000 linear feet of pathway that will connect the major community elements of North Central Laredo to the Rio Grande River Vega Park System. The largely residential area will be able to utilize the pathways to access most of the schools in the region ranging from elementary school to high school.

**Request Amount:** \$300,000

**Recipient:** City of Laredo

**Address:** 1110 Houston St.  
Laredo, Texas 78040

### **Marion Water Transmission Line**

This Project would include the construction of new PVC Transmission line to provide additional water for the citizens and water for fire protection for the inner-city population. At the present time, there are only two 8" lines serving the City.

**Request Amount:** \$1,000,000

**Recipient:** City of Marion

**Address:** P.O. Box 158  
Marion, Texas 78124

### **Neurodegeneration and Cognitive Dysfunction Center**

The purpose of this proposal is to secure federal funding to seed a large scale collaborative effort and form the Neurodegenerative and Cognitive Dysfunction Center. This center will seek to understand the molecular mechanisms underlying the major dysfunction, and explore methods of treatment to alleviate the accompanying neural and cognitive impairment.

**Requested Amount:** \$1,625,022

**Recipient:** University of Texas Health Science Center

**Address:** 7703 Floyd Curl Dr.  
Mail Code 7782  
San Antonio, Texas 78229

### **Olmitos and Gacia Watershed Dam Improvements**

This project will contribute directly to the security and protection of citizens by preventing flooding and alleviating present adverse conditions by improving the faulting watershed developments.

**Request Amount:** \$400,000

**Recipient:** County of Starr, Texas

601 East Main St.  
Rio Grande City, TX 78582

**Palmview, La Joya, Hidalgo, Pleasanton Police Equipment**

Funds will be used to purchase the equipment that will enable the cities to better fight crime. Funds will be distributed evenly to the police departments located in the cities of Palmview, La Joya, Hidalgo and Pleasanton.

**Requested Amount:** \$250,000

**Recipient:** City of Palmview  
400 W. Veterans Blvd.  
Palmview, TX 78572

City of La Joya  
P.O. Box H  
La Joya, TX 78572

City of Hidalgo  
704 E. Texano Dr.  
Hidalgo, TX 78572

City of Pleasanton  
P.O. Box 209  
Pleasanton, TX 78572

**Power Micro-grids for Colonias along the Texas/Mexico Border**

To provide power to dwellings on a temporary basis until an electric grid connection can be made. The initial micro-grid serves 12 dwellings. The funding requested will provide access to electricity for an additional 100 dwellings.

**Request Amount:** \$650,000

**Recipient:** Texas Engineering Experiment Station, The Texas A&M University System  
9350 S. Pressa  
San Antonio, TX 78223

**Fire Crash Rescue Station**

To construct a new fire station to replace the current substandard facility. The existing fire station has limited space and cannot adequately support the fire protection flight mission. Randolph AFB's existing fire station is 1040 square meters short of the space required by regulation.

**Requested Amount:** \$10,800,000

**Recipient:** Randolph AFB  
San Antonio, Texas

**Rio Grande Valley Border Security and Technology Training Center (City of Hidalgo)**

To establish a Hidalgo Border Security and Technology Training Center. The center's unique service strategy is to provide training for targeted industry clusters that support the training needs of Border Security, Emergency Preparedness and Response. This Border Security Initiative will have a profound economic impact within the service delivery region.

**Request Amount:** \$1,000,000

**Recipient:** City of Hidalgo  
704 E. Texano Dr.  
Hidalgo, TX 78557

### **Roma Bus Terminal**

The bus terminal will expedite the movement of people into and out of the United States through Roma. The port of Roma serves as the United States closest point to Monterrey, Mexico. Because of this proximity the Mexican government is investing millions of dollars into the route that connects Roma with Monterrey.

**Request Amount:** \$650,000

**Recipient:** City of Roma  
77 Convent St.  
Roma, TX 78584

### **San Antonio Channel Improvements Project 2**

The Corps' previous channelization project degraded the river environment and its ecosystem. The project fulfills the Corps restoration policy. It is fully authorized; has obtained all necessary technical project approvals from the Assistant Secretary of the Army and all required construction agreements with the Corps have been executed.

**Request Amount:** \$65.1 million

**Recipient:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
819 Taylor Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

### **San Bernardo Avenue Restoration and Renovation – Laredo, TX**

The San Bernardo Ave. Restoration and Renovation project will improve a 2.8 mile corridor's roadway capacity and operations, business access, pedestrian facilities, bus route function and overall safety and aesthetics. Funds will be used for restriping, the updating of sidewalks to comply with ADA regulations, the provision of wheelchair ramps and signalization improvements, the creation of 1,200 ft bus stop spacing intervals and the installation of medians.

**Request Amount:** \$2,000,000

**Recipient:** City of Laredo  
1110 Houston St.  
Laredo, TX 78040

### **SAWS Automated Meter Infrastructure 1**

To conserve water through efficient management and provide critical, real-time data daily to help inform and educate customers about their water bills and water use patterns. Having a system that accurately and effectively gauges water use consumption will provide a better customer service relationship while reducing operational expense.

**Request Amount:** \$3 million

**Recipient:** San Antonio Water System  
2800 U.S. Highway 281 North

San Antonio, TX 78212

**Solar Panels for Dodge Arena**

Due to the surge in energy costs along with meeting EPA standards in becoming a green facility the City is proposing the installation of Solar Panels at Dodge Arena. Plans call for the installation of several Solar Panels to help supply the facility with alternative clean energy the entire year. The Solar Panels will help reduce the high energy costs at Dodge Arena.

**Request Amount:** \$800,000

**Recipient:** City of Hidalgo  
704 East Texano Dr.  
Hidalgo, TX 78557

**South Texas Forensic Laboratory**

The equipment purchased for the forensics laboratory would benefit local law enforcement agencies and other components of the local criminal justice system (such as the District Attorney's Office), which are public non-profit agencies. This equipment could be used by surrounding communities including Webb County, Zapata County, Jim Hogg County, La Salle and Starr County.

**Request Amount:** \$250,000

**Recipient:** Webb County Sheriff  
902 Victoria St.  
Laredo, TX 78040

**South Texas Joint Training Center**

Funds will support the acquisition of 25,000 acres and the necessary infrastructure support required to the new training center.

**Requested Amount:** \$45 million

**Recipient:** South Texas Joint Training Center  
P.O. Box 5218  
Austin, TX 78763

**South Texas Regional Emergency Operations Center**

The Emergency Operations Center will provide a location where multiple levels of government, agencies, and organizations can coordinate decisions, resources, and public information on a strategic level. The EOC is a support element to the Incident Command structure. For all incidents, regardless of cause, response will focus on actions taken to save lives, sustain life, and protect infrastructure.

**Request Amount:** \$500,000

**Recipient:** City of Laredo, TX Fire Department  
#1 Guadalupe  
Laredo, TX 78040

**Rio Grande City Wastewater System Improvement Project**

To provide wastewater service to the citizens of Rio Grande City to those who live in unserved areas. To eliminate potential health risks associated from non-operating private septic systems. This in turn will provide access to a centralized sanitary sewer system to



approximately 624 residents residing in distressed Colonias. The specific funding use is for first time sewer services.

**Request Amount:** \$1,235,000

**Recipient:** City of Rio Grande City  
101 S. Washington St.  
Rio Grande City, TX 78582

**TAMIU Academic Component**

Funding would allow the Texas Army National Guard to continue their work with Laredo Community College and Texas A&M International University in an effort to provide training through the Border Joint Operations Emergency Preparedness Center (BJOEPC) in Laredo, Texas. FY 2010 funding will be used for the purchase of necessary equipment and furnishings to aid in the development of the BJOEPC.

**Requested Amount:** \$1.5 million

**Recipient:** Texas Army National Guard  
P.O. Box 5218  
Austin, TX 78763

**Texas Lutheran University Small Business Center**

To develop a small business center at Texas Lutheran University

**Request Amount:** \$250,000

**Recipient:** Texas Lutheran University  
1000 W. Court St.  
Seguin, TX 78155

**Walnut Branch Linear Park Restoration Project**

Funding is requested for Phase II for the Walnut Branch Park Restoration. This project provides a contiguous hike and bike trail, handicap accessible, along the Walnut Branch, a spring-fed waterway that runs through Seguin.

**Request Amount:** \$1 million

**Recipient:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
819 Taylor St.  
Forth Worth, TX 76102

**Wilson County Police Departments Equipment**

Funds will be used to purchase equipment that will enable the cities to better fight crime. Funds will be distributed evenly to the Police Departments located in La Vernia, Poth and Stockdale, Texas.

**Requested Amount:** \$300,000

**Recipient:** City of Floresville  
1120 D. St.  
Floresville, TX 78114

City of La Vernia  
P.O. Box 225  
La Vernia, TX 78114

City of Poth  
P.O. Box 579  
Poth, TX 78114

City of Stockdale  
700 West Main  
Stockdale, TX 78114

**World Trade Bridge Expansion Bill Language**

Language submitted to permit funding to expand inspection booths to reduce wait times, increase commerce, economic development and public safety.

**Request Amount:** n/a

**Recipient:** City of Laredo  
1110 Houston St.  
Laredo, TX 78040

**Zapata Raw Water Transmission Line**

Zapata County is in the process of constructing a new water plant, one of the essential infrastructure improvements needed to provide adequate raw water to the plant site. The present water lines were inadequate in size and very old.

**Requested Amount:** \$700,000

**Recipient:** County of Zapata  
P.O. Box 99  
Zapata, TX 78076