



City of Sierra Vista

Office of the Mayor

February 18, 2010

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords
United States House of Representatives
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Fiscal year 2011 Appropriation Request

Dear Congresswoman Giffords:

The City of Sierra Vista seeks your support in the awarding of appropriation funding for the development of a sanitary sewer system for the Sulger Subdivision area in the west end of the city. We believe the many environmental and economic benefits that a sewer system provides to this distressed area of our community makes this project an ideal candidate for federal funds.

The City of Sierra Vista has been working on revitalization of the "West End" of the city for the past ten years. Numerous efforts have been put forth on the commercial and residential areas of this part of the city, including a strong partnership with Cochise County to help address the unincorporated "islands" within the area. As a result, we are witnessing success in the commercial areas and within the Fry Townsite area, the city's oldest and most dilapidated neighborhoods. One of the keys to the revitalization of the Fry Townsite area (actually a designated Colonia) has been the installation of sanitary sewers.

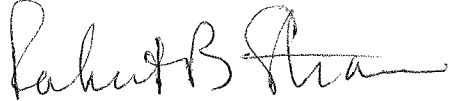
The Sulger Subdivision is in an area designed by U.S. Census data as low income. It consists of 156 lots, 61 of which are located in a county island. Lot sizes are around 7,500 square feet and all lots have onsite septic systems. With the subdivision's age now over forty years, numerous septic systems have begun to fail. Due to the small lot sizes there is often very little room for a new system, and so the result is a substandard, short-term repair. Cumulatively this is resulting in water quality concerns and could eventually lead to condemnation of residences. Revitalization of this area simply cannot occur without sewer service, and the \$25,000 per property price tag has resulted in this project being on the back burner for over twenty years. It is likely to remain there without outside funding.

In addition to the significant environmental and economic benefits already noted, this project has the added advantage of contributing an estimated forty acre feet of water mitigation in the form of recharge at the City's Environmental Operations Park. Every acre foot of water recharged ultimately benefits Fort Huachuca. We believe the Sulger Subdivision Sanitary Sewer Project is the single most important environmental protection measure the City of Sierra Vista can take at this time, and we respectfully request your assistance in obtaining federal funds for its construction.

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If you have any questions or wish my staff to provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Strain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "B".

Robert B. Strain
Mayor