April 12, 2018

The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Assistant Secretary James and Director Mulvaney:

As you make determinations for the fiscal year 2018 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) work plan, I respectfully request that you include $5 million in operation and maintenance funds to complete partially funded critical breakwater repairs at Port San Luis.

The need for this breakwater cannot be underestimated. A ‘catastrophic breaching’ would have serious impacts on public safety, emergency preparedness and response, commercial fishing, recreational boating, the lower lying elevations of the community of Avila Beach as well as Homeland Security issues related to Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

The Port San Luis Harbor is protected by a federal breakwater, originally authorized by Congress in 1888 and completed in 1913. Maintenance on the breakwater has been conducted over the years. However, a structural inspection completed in 2015 revealed that portions of the breakwater are near collapsing. In recognition of this dire condition, the FY 17 Corps work plan included $5 million for initial work. Additional work estimated at $5 million is needed in FY 18 to complete these critical repairs.

California’s maritime industry supports 3.5 million jobs across the country and 40 percent of all waterborne goods that enter and leave the United States. Port San Luis represents a small, but important piece of the coastline’s maritime network. When hazardous weather conditions close access to other coastal harbors and a harbor of refuge is needed, Port San Luis is the only harbor of refuge for 280 miles.

Thank you for your attention to this important request which would complete critical repairs on the Port San Luis breakwater.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

SALUD O. CARBAJAL
Member of Congress