

October 8, 2026

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Stevan Pearce
Director
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Cameron Hamilton
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

The Honorable W. C. "Chad" McIntosh
Commissioner, United States Section
International Boundary and Water
Commission
4191 North Mesa Street
El Paso, TX 79902

Dear Secretary Rollins, Director Pearce, Administrator Hamilton, and Commissioner McIntosh:

We write in response to the significant impact of the recent flooding in southern New Mexico, including in Socorro, Sierra, and Doña Ana counties. We urge you to immediately tour the damage with local officials and make all available resources accessible to the families, farmers, businesses, and communities impacted by this disaster.

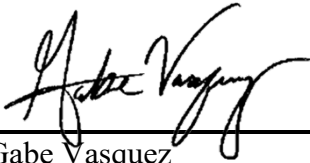
The affected counties have all declared emergencies and are working with state leaders and emergency managers on additional state and federal support and disaster declarations, but your agencies should not wait to provide assistance. It is imperative that your agencies act now to cut red tape, reduce bureaucratic barriers, increase communication and responsiveness, and act as a partner in this recovery. Due to the nature of this area, the complex patchwork of federal land, critical agricultural areas, and proximity to the border, this response will require your agencies to work hand-in-hand with state, county, and local leaders on both short-term recovery and long-term mitigation efforts.

We urge you to use every tool available to address inter-jurisdictional issues related to maintenance and repair of critical flood control infrastructure that was neglected long before this flooding. We also invite your agencies to visit the community, tour the damage, and meet with local officials and emergency managers to evaluate the damage and backlogged maintenance needs that played a large part in the breaking of critical flood control structures.

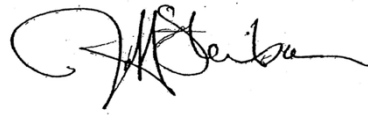
In addition to the public infrastructure, homes and businesses were damaged, this flooding significantly impacted chile, onion, pecan, and other producers across this critical agricultural community. We also urge the Farm Service Agency to hold a public meeting to address the Farm Aid assistance programs and how growers and residents can access them.

Disasters like this require us to work together. We look forward to your prompt response and assistance.

Sincerely,



Gabe Vasquez
United States Congress



Jeff Steinborn
New Mexico State Senate



Nathan P. Small
New Mexico House of Representatives



Harvey Morrow
Caballo Soil and Water Conservation District



Dennis Torres
City of Hatch

CC:
Farm Service Agency