



8/11/2025
El Paso City Council
1 Civic Center Plaza
El Paso, TX 79901

Re: Letter of Support for the Establishment of an Urban Waters Location in El Paso, Texas

Dear Members of the El Paso City Council,

On behalf of Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District (Ciudad SWCD), I am writing in strong support of efforts by U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) staff and local advocates to establish an Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) location in El Paso, Texas.

As the host of the Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Ambassador in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Ciudad SWCD has seen firsthand the benefits of being part of this national partnership. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership brings together federal agencies, local governments, tribes, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to revitalize urban waterways and the communities that surround them. Through this collaboration, we work to improve water quality, restore habitat, enhance public access, and invest in communities—particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed.

Becoming an Urban Waters location would position El Paso to access targeted federal support and funding through the EPA's Urban Waters program. Just as importantly, it would create a platform for sustained, cross-sector collaboration to address local water issues and connect residents more deeply with the Rio Grande and other vital water resources in the region.

Ciudad SWCD believes that the Urban Waters model is not just about environmental restoration—it's about building equitable and resilient communities through healthy watersheds, community engagement, economic revitalization, and meaningful partnerships. We are confident that El Paso would be an excellent addition to the national network of Urban Waters locations, and we enthusiastically support this initiative.

Please do not hesitate to reach out at joshua@ciudadswcd.org if we can provide additional information or speak further in support of this effort.

Sincerely,
Joshua O'Halloran,

District Manager
Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District