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news release

DE LA GARZA ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION LAND ACQUISITION AWARD TO LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

For Immediate Release: May 22, 1996

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Congressman Kika de la Garza today announced the approval of \$1 million in Fiscal Year 1996 Land Acquisition funds to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Wildlife Refuge.

The award came after Rep. de la Garza contacted Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt to urge that he place the Valley Wildlife Refuge at the top of the Fish and Wildlife Service list to receive funds.

These Fish and Wildlife Service funds will enable the Lower Rio Grande Valley Wildlife Refuge to purchase additional land as part of its biodiversity project. The Refuge, which was begun in 1979, is more than halfway completed with over 75,000 acres protected. The eventual goal of the Refuge is to protect some 132,500 acres of land that has the greatest biological diversity anywhere in North America.

"Over the years I have sought to make my voice heard on behalf of Valley wildlife, feeling that the preservation of our natural resources is among the greatest heritages that we can pass on to future generations. This \$1 million infusion of monies to the Valley Wildlife Refuge will provide huge benefits both now and in the future for our children and their children. Additionally, it will provide a tremendous boost to the economy, serving as a magnet drawing tourists to the area," de la Garza said.

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