

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We, the members of the San Diego Congressional Delegation, write to thank you for your ongoing support in repairing and expanding the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP).

As you know, the SBIWTP is critical in mitigating the impact of toxic transboundary sewage flows from Mexico into Southern California. For years, the pollution in the Tijuana River Valley has negatively impacted constituents' health,¹ harmed local economies,² and impeded the Navy's ability to conduct training in nearby waters.³

Thanks to your strong partnership and the inclusion of robust Tijuana River Valley funding in your FY 2024 Budget, the bipartisan government funding bill that passed last month included over \$156 million for the U.S. International Boundary Water Commission that can be used for critical repairs to the SBIWTP and to help combat cross-border pollution. Even though we know that more money is needed to expand the facility so the U.S. can meet its treaty commitments and return the Federal government to compliance with the Clean Water Act, this is important progress that we, and the people of San Diego, appreciate.

We are also grateful that your Administration has continued to make this a priority by including \$40.1 million in your FY 2025 Budget request for ongoing improvements for the plant. This is a welcome first step, and we value the continued collaboration to address the pollution in the Tijuana River Valley. We look forward to working with the Administration again this year to secure the additional funding needed to expand SBIWTP consistent with our obligations under existing agreements with Mexico.

The Administration's support has not only been financial. Over the past year, we have been grateful to have worked closely with top members of the Administration on this issue, including OMB Director Young, EPA Administrator Regan, and Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs Brian Nichols.

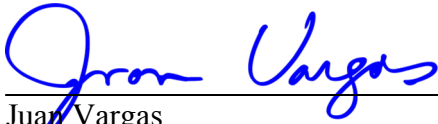
These actions taken by you and the Administration demonstrate your dedication to the health and well-being of the people of San Diego. We look forward to working with you and the Administration further to continue responding to the sewage pollution in the Tijuana River Valley.

With respect and gratitude,

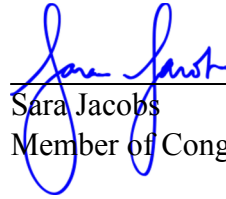
¹ Paula E Stigler Granados et al., ["Tijuana River Contamination from Urban Runoff and Sewage: A Public Health Crisis at the Border."](#) San Diego State University, February 15, 2024.

² Marie Coronel, ["Water Contamination Remains Major Problem for Imperial Beach, Businesses Say They're Struggling."](#) ABC 10 News San Diego KGTV, December 21, 2023.

³ Tammy Murga, ["Is Sewage Crisis Affecting Navy SEALs Training in Coronado? San Diego Congressional Members Want to Know."](#) San Diego Union Tribune, February 2, 2024.



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