



June 6, 2022

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
Member of the State Assembly
1021 O Street, #8120
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Chris Ward
Member of the State Assembly
1021 O Street, #4220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support AB 2248 (E. Garcia)

Dear Assemblymembers Garcia and Ward,

We, the undersigned local officials representing the San Diego region, are writing to express our strong support of Assembly Bill 2248 (Garcia) which would make \$100 million available upon appropriation from the State of California's FY 2022-23 Budget to address water quality issues related to California-Mexico cross-boundary rivers.

As you know, pollution associated with cross boundary sewage flows from the Tijuana River have created a major water quality crisis at San Diego's southern communities for decades, with rain events leading to hundreds of millions of gallons of untreated sewage from the Tijuana River to pollute our beaches, the valley, and surrounding estuary. In 2020, the average daily flow of untreated sewage was 50 million gallons a day, and the beaches in the City of Imperial Beach were forced to close for 240 days that year as a result of contaminated water.

Our region's governmental agencies, business community, and community organizations have been united in seeking a common comprehensive solution in partnership with the State of California and federal government. These efforts have culminated in the North American Development Bank and US Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) Tijuana Valley Diversion Study, the County of San Diego's Tijuana Valley Needs and Opportunity Assessment funded by California State Senate Bill 507

(Hueso), a \$300 million appropriation from the federal government through implementation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), and finally US EPA led comprehensive approach of priority projects totaling \$627 million being issued in 2021.

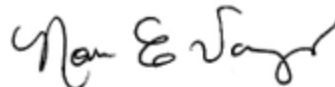
The State of California has been a leader and valued partner in addressing the environmental justice crisis caused by sewage flows in the Tijuana River Valley, contributing \$15 million from the FY 2019-20 Budget to complement SB 690 (Hueso), and \$20 million in the FY 2021-22 Budget through SB 170. Our region's leaders stand together with you to respectfully request an additional allocation of \$50 million in the FY 2022-23 Budget to deal specifically with the Tijuana River Valley, as part of a larger \$100 million request to help with water quality issues also impacting the New River. This funding would be critical to advancing projects outlined in the aforementioned studies including trash booms, infrastructure in our canyon collectors, and other supporting infrastructure projects.

We thank you for your leadership on this important regional effort. If you have any questions related to this request, please contact Adrian Granda, Director of Government Affairs, City of San Diego at 619-533-5965 or ADGranda@sandiego.gov.

Sincerely,



TODD GLORIA
Mayor
City of San Diego



NORA VARGAS
Vice-Chair
County of San Diego



SERGE DEDINA
Mayor
City of Imperial Beach



RICHARD BAILEY
Mayor
City of Coronado



MARY CASILLAS SALAS
Mayor
City of Chula Vista



ALEJANDRA SOTELO-SOLIS
Mayor
City of National City



DAN MALCOLM
Chair
Port of San Diego