



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA
MAYOR

September 9, 2024

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Senate Environment & Public Works
Committee
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Environment & Public Works
Committee
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carper, Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Capito, and Ranking Member Larsen:

I am writing to respectfully request the inclusion of the authorization of a new Environmental Infrastructure (EI) program for San Diego County and the Tijuana River Valley Watershed in the final Water Resources Development Act of 2024's conference report, as included in both the Senate advanced bill, S. 4367 and House advanced bill, H.R. 8812.

This investment is crucial to address the ongoing public health and environmental crisis caused by raw sewage contamination in the Tijuana River Valley, which is polluting beaches in the San Diego region and creating a public health crisis for my residents as well as federal Customs and Border Protection personnel and Navy Seals who train in these waters.

For decades, San Diego residents have endured the devastating consequences of untreated sewage flowing from Mexico into the Tijuana River Valley, creating a toxic

mix of pathogens, garbage, and chemicals. Recent studies highlight the severe health risks associated with this contamination, including respiratory illnesses and potential exposure to waterborne diseases. Recent storms in our region have only exacerbated the issue, releasing an estimated 14.5 billion gallons of raw sewage into our communities.

The downstream effects of the relentless flow of untreated wastewater into our region significantly affect our local economy. During Labor Day weekend, three beaches in San Diego County were closed due to unsafe waters – preventing many residents and visitors from enjoying our beautiful coast during the holiday. These patrons visit our many world-class restaurants, shops, and activities in our beach communities and are critical to the health of our economy.

The Environmental Infrastructure program will provide a consistent stream of investment to help provide the infrastructure necessary to help address the flow of pollution into our waters through stormwater, water quality protection, and environmental restoration projects. These efforts will help ensure our beaches are safe for visitors and residents of all ages to enjoy and ensure the health and well-being of San Diego County residents is front and center.

As your committees begin conference negotiations, I urge you to consider the authorizing this EI program at the House passed level of \$200 million to help our region significant impact the \$10 million investment will have on our region's economy, environment, and health. I am proud to stand with San Diego's Congressional delegation in advancing this effort and thank our Senators for including the program in the Senate bill.

Should you have any questions, please contact my Director of Government Affairs, Walt Bishop, at wbishop@sandiego.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Gloria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Todd" and last name "Gloria" clearly legible.

TODD GLORIA
Mayor
City of San Diego

CC:
Senator Alex Padilla
Senator Laphonza Butler
Representative Scott Peters
Representative Juan Vargas
Representative Mike Levin
Representative Darrell Issa
Representative Sara Jacobs