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National Emergency Declared for Tijuana River Valley

SAN DIEGO – Today the San Diego City Council unanimously approved Councilmember Vivian Moreno’s resolution to call on the federal government to declare a national emergency and fully fund the Environmental Protection Agency’s Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution and Minute No. 328 to address the sewage contamination that is entering the Tijuana River Valley.

Councilmember Vivian Moreno said, “As a resident and mother in the South Bay, I have experienced the daily torments caused by the Tijuana River Valley crisis,” **says Councilmember Moreno**. “The reality is that we have needed help since 1993, we need to see actions from our federal representatives to solve this crisis. There is an identified infrastructure solution, but the federal government has yet to fully fund it.”

Mayor Todd Gloria stated, “The residents and businesses in the South Bay who are suffering from the impacts of the cross-border sewage crisis are right to expect action, and a federal declaration of emergency would unlock resources to properly address this issue. Leaders from across our region are all united; we’re doing what’s within our authority to address this environmental disaster and demanding the same of the federal government. We won’t stop until it’s fixed.”

Mayor of Imperial Beach Paloma Aguirre commented, “I am thankful to Councilmember Moreno for this resolution. We have the science, we have the data, and we have the support of Congress and the California State Legislature—all 120 members calling for a state of emergency. The evidence is there. The impact is undeniable,” **says Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre**. “It’s time for the federal government and the state to take action. President Biden, Governor Newsom, we’re calling on you to declare a state of emergency and to fully fund the infrastructure needed to solve this crisis. The people of South County deserve clean air and clean water.”

State Assemblymember David Alvarez stated, “The sewage, solid waste and sediment in the Tijuana River is an environmental and public health disaster,” **said**

Assemblymember Alvarez. “I commend Councilmember Moreno for elevating this issue and support the call for an emergency declaration at both the state and federal level.”

County Chairwoman Nora Vargas said, “As Chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors and a board member of both the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Air Pollution Control District (APCD), I stand in full support of declaring a national emergency in the Tijuana River Valley,” **said Chairwoman Nora Vargas.** “Working closely with federal, state, and local partners, we are raising the urgency of this environmental crisis to secure long-term, permanent solutions. Families in South County deserve nothing less than clean water and air, and I remain committed to making sure their voices are heard at every level of government.”

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Councilmember Vivian Moreno represents the Eighth Council District of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Barrio Logan, Egger Highlands, Grant Hill, Logan Heights, Memorial, Nestor, Ocean View Hills, Otay Mesa, San Ysidro, Shelltown, Sherman Heights, Southcrest and the Tijuana River Valley.