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PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO STOP UNAUTHORIZED BORDER BARRIER CONSTRUCTION ON CITY PROPERTY

SAN DIEGO — The City of San Diego has filed a lawsuit to halt the federal government's unlawful construction of razor wire (concertina wire) fencing on City-owned property in Marron Valley near the U.S.-Mexico border. The suit seeks to protect environmentally sensitive land that is part of the City's Multiple Species Conservation Program and ensure compliance with longstanding agreements to preserve critical habitats.

The complaint, filed Monday, names the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Defense, and other federal officials as defendants. The City argues that federal agencies have acted without statutory authority, trespassed on City property, and caused irreparable environmental harm. The City alleges that federal personnel, including U.S. Marines, entered City land without consent and began constructing a concertina wire barrier, causing irreparable harm to protected plant and wildlife habitats, riparian areas, and vernal pools. The barrier has blocked the City's ability to assess and manage its property and has jeopardized compliance with environmental agreements, including obligations under the Multiple Species Conservation Program and the Cornerstone Lands Conservation Bank Agreement.

The City's legal claims include trespass and public nuisance for the unlawful occupation and interference with City property, multiple violations of the Administrative Procedure Act for actions taken without statutory authority and without required procedures, and an unconstitutional taking under the Fifth Amendment for depriving the City of its property without due process or just compensation.

"The City of San Diego will not allow federal agencies to disregard the law and damage City property," said **City Attorney Heather Ferbert**. "We are taking decisive action to protect sensitive habitats, uphold environmental commitments, and ensure that the rights and resources of our community are respected."

The case seeks immediate relief to prevent further harm and ensure that conservation commitments and access rights are honored. The Complaint is attached [here](#).

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