



March 12, 2024

The Honorable David Alvarez
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5320
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Joint Resolution 12 – Tijuana River: cross-border pollution – SUPPORT
(As amended on February 13, 2024)**

Dear Assemblymember Alvarez,

On behalf of the City of Carlsbad, I write to express our strong support for Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 12, which would urge the United States Congress to support President Joseph Biden's \$310,000,000 supplemental funding request for the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission due to the ongoing impacts to public health, the environment, and the local economy caused by cross-border pollution in the Tijuana River Valley. The measure would also urge President Biden to declare a national emergency due to those ongoing impacts.

Cross-border pollution in the Tijuana River Valley is directly affecting southern California cities, the health of community members, and the local ecosystem. Both the City and County of San Diego, as well as the City of Imperial Beach, have declared a state of emergency in response to increasing levels of pollution, including increased discharge of trash, sediment, and wastewater. The International Boundary and Water Commission has documented that over 200 billion gallons of toxic effluent has flowed into the United States. This pollution has led to an increased number of annual illnesses for residents in the area and the closure of popular city attractions, such as local beaches, that dampen local economic activity and harm the quality of life in the region.

While this environmental disaster is occurring in southern California, the lack of greater state and federal action could set a precedent for all of California's coast in complying with necessary state and federal laws. The lack of financial and technical support to address these longstanding issues threaten the California Constitution (Article 10, Section 4) and the California Coastal Act of 1976, which guarantee maximum public access to the coast, tidal lands, and navigable waters of the state. Additionally, upholding compliance with federal laws, including the Clean Water Act, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, is necessary given the national and international agreements in this region.

The City of Carlsbad supports legislation that allocates state and federal funds for the construction of facilities to capture and treat the flow of raw sewage entering San Diego from Tijuana. AJR 12 would urge federal support to address the devastating impacts occurring in our region. For these reasons, we are pleased to support AJR 12 and thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Sharon Gonsalves with Renne Public Policy Group at 916-974-9270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Blackburn', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Keith Blackburn
Mayor
City of Carlsbad

CC: Members and Staff of the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Senate District 38
The Honorable Tasha Boerner, Assembly District 77