



January 27, 2026

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA, 92101

Re: Agenda Item #16 – Support - UNLOCK RESERVE FUNDS TO PROVIDE AIR PURIFIERS FOR RESIDENTS SUFFERING FROM AIR POLLUTION IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE TIJUANA RIVER POLLUTION CRISIS

Dear San Diego County Supervisors,

On behalf of the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD), I write in strong support of Agenda Item #16 on the January 28, 2026 Board of Supervisors agenda, which would unlock \$4 million in reserve funds to provide air purifiers for households affected by the Tijuana River Valley transboundary wastewater crisis.

In response to the Tijuana River Valley crisis, SDAPCD launched the Air Improvement Relief Effort (AIRE) Program, which distributes free air purifiers to qualifying households most affected by odors and air pollution caused by the crisis. The air purifiers are designed to improve indoor air quality by filtering hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), thus reducing the effects of H₂S exposure. To date, SDAPCD has distributed over 10,000 air purifiers and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from air purifier recipients. Through a survey conducted by SDAPCD last year, the majority of respondents reported an overall improvement of odors and in health-related symptoms among participating households. Based on participant feedback and survey results, approximately 88 percent of participants reported feeling satisfied or very satisfied with the air purifier they received through the AIRE Program. Survey results also demonstrated nearly four in five respondents believed the air purifier reduced odors in their home, and a large portion reported a myriad of health benefits from the air purifier use, particularly for respiratory symptoms, sleep, and general comfort. With over 35,000 households in the program area, and many being multi-generational households, one purifier per home is insufficient. Residents often face the difficult decision about where to place the air purifier during nighttime hours, when H₂S levels tend to peak. Due to this need, the SDAPCD Governing Board unanimously approved an expansion of the program that would provide up to three air purifiers per household.

SDAPCD conducted a feasibility study of an expansion of the program that would provide an additional 30,000 air purifiers for South Bay communities within the program area. Based on the information collected from similar programs and the existing program model, it was determined that it would cost approximately \$8-10 million to continue providing critical relief for affected households at this scale.



San Diego County
**Air Pollution
Control District**

We respectfully urge you to approve this item and help ensure that all affected households receive the critical relief they need. Thank you for your leadership in addressing this urgent public health issue and for your continued commitment to improving air quality in San Diego County. For more information about this program, or with any questions, please contact Melina Meza, Government Relations Program Coordinator, at melina.meza1@sdapcd.org or (858) 967-9767.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Forbis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Paula Forbis

Air Pollution Control Officer