

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, APRIL 09, 2024**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 24

SUBJECT: IN SUPPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION ACT, SENATE BILL 1178 (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

For decades, the pollution in the Tijuana River Valley has impacted South Bay communities and is now impacting San Diego County's coastal communities to the north such as Coronado, San Diego's Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, La Jolla, and Del Mar. With increased poor air quality, sewage leaks, waste, plastic pollution, sediment, and trash, it is evident that these environmental issues should be viewed as a pressing crisis.

That is why the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors (Board) declared a local proclamation regarding the environmental crisis due to transboundary pollution on June 27th, 2023 (16). This was a result of the continued contamination to the nearly 70 miles of coastlines, beaches, and San Diego communities.

There has continued to be advocacy and legislation regarding this issue at the local, state, and federal levels. In the winter of 2024, after discussion with federal officials, experts, local representatives, and the public about their efforts to address cross-border pollution, California State Senator Steve Padilla introduced an important piece of legislation that aims to mitigate this issue.

Senate Bill 1178 (SB 1178) would require large corporations of 2,500 or more employees doing business in California to publicly disclose their wastewater discharges that can result in contamination of California watersheds. The measure also directs the State Water Resources Board Control Board (SWRCB) to create the "California Water Quality and Public Health Impact Surcharge" which will quantify the costs of mitigating that contamination. The County's support of State Senator Padilla's bill demonstrates that we take this water pollution crisis seriously and will also inform large corporations that accountability matters in San Diego County, and we want them to be responsible corporate partners.

The item today aims to gain the County's official support for SB 1178, consistent with Board policy M-2.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

VICE CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER AND CHAIRWOMAN NORA VARGAS

Direct the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to express the County's support for California Senate Bill (SB) 1178, consistent with Board Policy M-2.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Our local communities have endured decades of negative impacts from the various pollution sources in the Tijuana River Valley, particularly our communities closest to the San Diego International Border. It is imperative that the County of San Diego remains committed to working with local, state, federal and Mexican authorities to improve conditions for these communities wherever possible.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

This board letter aligns with the County’s sustainability goals of protecting the environment, and our beaches and coastlines for current residents, visitors, and future generations to enjoy.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today’s actions.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

With the persistent beach closures, there has been an impact to surrounding businesses due to the decreased visitors and traffic. The County continues to engage with businesses and non-profit service providers that have been impacted by the restricted access to our local beaches and oceans with the goal of assisting in identifying ways to connect them to any state or federal relief programs.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Lawson-Remer, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

NOES: Anderson

NOT PRESENT: Vargas

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter