



**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

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**MATTHEW PARR**  
DIRECTOR

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of the Administrator 1101A  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20460

March 12, 2025

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

On behalf of the County of San Diego, I want to congratulate you on your appointment as Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a role of great importance to the nearly 3.5 million residents of our region. In this new role, we wish you success in fulfilling the mission of the EPA to reduce all forms of pollution that impact Americans across the country.

In particular, the County looks forward to continuing our partnership with the EPA in addressing the decades-long issue of transboundary water pollution in the Tijuana River Valley of San Diego. We are grateful that the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) included vital legal authorities and \$300 million in funding to make much-needed repairs to the outdated and overwhelmed South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant. From that initial investment and over the course of the past year, Congress appropriated and authorized the largest financial commitments yet from the Federal Government to combat Mexican environmental hazards in our region. We eagerly await the results of the recent on-the-ground research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) into the crisis's impact on affected communities in the South Bay.

The County is cognizant of the work ahead to truly end this water pollution crisis. As the necessary repair work begins at the South Bay plant and a new treatment plant in Tijuana is scheduled to come online in the coming months, the County anticipates that sewage flows will reduce dramatically and the work to restore communities impacted by years of beach closures can begin. We are ready to partner with you and your staff as the next phase of this work commences. With the EPA designated as the lead agency

for future projects in the watershed by the USMCA, the County is ready provide all necessary expertise to the EPA to facilitate initial planning and future projects.

The County knows there is much work to be done to restore the local environment and provide peace of mind to residents of our South Bay communities. Addressing this ongoing pollution crisis is not only a quality-of-life issue for thousands of County residents, but also a matter of national security as the pollution results in equipment deterioration for US Customs and Border Patrol and the polluted water impacts Navy SEAL Training in San Diego Bay.

Please know that the County remains ready, willing, and able to partner with you to continue delivering results for our constituents. Residents of these impacted communities have endured the impacts of this crisis for far too long. If there are any resources or expertise the County can help provide, please contact me at (619) 372-2126 or [matthew.parr@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:matthew.parr@sdcounty.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Parr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MATTHEW PARR

Director