



Terra Lawson-Remer

CHAIR

San Diego County Board of Supervisors

December 12, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

On behalf of the County of San Diego (County), I am writing to request the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ongoing cooperation to identify toxic chemicals and thresholds relevant to Superfund designation in the Tijuana River Valley. As the County continues to request resources from federal, state, and local partners to address the public health impacts of the sewage crisis, it is vital to continue our mutual cooperation and coordination. The infrastructure improvements that are underway will make a significant impact on the future of the region, but more resources are needed to address the immediate health concerns of those who live and work in the area and comprehensive scientific analysis of the contaminants present are critical to secure such resources.

The Tijuana River sewage crisis has had profound environmental, public health, and economic impacts across multiple communities in South San Diego County, with more than 47 billion gallons of raw sewage flowing into the Tijuana River Valley since mid-2023. This untreated sewage contains banned pesticides such as DDT, carcinogenic compounds, heavy metals such as lead, arsenic, and hexavalent chromium, and other dangerous chemicals that pose risks to the health and well-being of our communities. While recent studies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Assessment of Chemical Exposure (ACE) and Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER), have highlighted the human and economic toll of the sewage crisis, questions remain as to what exactly is embedded in the soil, water, and sediment.

At the County Board of Supervisor's September 30th meeting, the Board approved a motion to request \$1.4 million from the State of California's Water Resources Control Board to support a two-year comprehensive sediment study of the Tijuana River Valley. As we await a final decision from the State, the County requests the EPA's continued coordination with our efforts to mitigate the public health impacts of the ongoing sewage crisis. We believe the results of the study will further help residents of South San Diego County by providing concrete data to inform our future public health measures in the region.

The County of San Diego reiterates our request for continued cooperation between our agencies and staff as we proceed with efforts to conduct this first-of-its-kind study in the Tijuana River Valley. If San Diego County can provide any additional information on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Parr, Director of Economic Development and Government Affairs at (619) 372-2126.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terra Lawson-Remer', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

TERRA LAWSON-REMER
Chair, San Diego County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, Third District