

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - LAND USE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 8

SUBJECT: LOCAL EMERGENCY REVIEW: PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR U.S.-MEXICO TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

On June 27, 2023 (16), the County of San Diego (County) Board of Supervisors (Board), issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency (Proclamation) as a result of the continued conditions for detrimental impacts to the environment, economy, and property within San Diego county, caused by persistent impacts from cross-border sewage pollution and sewage impacted ocean waters. The Proclamation was issued pursuant to the San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances sections 31.101 et seq. and California Government Code section 8630. The Proclamation further asked the Governor to proclaim a State of Emergency in San Diego County. Government Code section 8630(c) requires local governing bodies to review the need for continuing the local emergency at least once every 60 days until the local emergency is terminated.

On July 19, 2023 (4), September 13, 2023 (3), November 8, 2023 (2), December 6, 2023 (2), January 24, 2024 (1), March 13, 2024 (3), May 1, 2024 (4), June 26, 2024 (4), July 17, 2024 (6), September 11, 2024(3), October 22, 2024 (9), December 11, 2024 (1), January 29, 2025 (2), March 12, 2025 (2), May 07, 2025 (2), June 25, 2025 (4), July 22, 2025 (4), September 10 (1), November 5, 2025 (2), December 10, 2025 (2), and January 28, 2026 (3) the Board found that there is a continuing need for the local emergency. This is a request to find that a review of the local emergency has been conducted and that the local emergency will remain in effect.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find that the proclamation of local emergency is not subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15060(c)(2) and (3), 15061(b)(3), and 15378(b)(4)&(5) because the action is an administrative action intended to facilitate state and federal funding, does not commit the County to a specific project, and will not have a reasonably foreseeable direct or indirect effect on the environment.
2. Find that there is a need to continue the local emergency and that the local emergency shall continue subject to review requirements until terminated pursuant to Government Code section 8630(d).

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The communities closest to the San Diego International Border, including the communities of Imperial Beach, San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, and Tijuana River Valley are identified by SB 535 (2012) and CalEnviroScreen 4.0 as being Environmental Justice communities having high pollution burdens for impaired water bodies, elevated PM2.5, elevated linguistic isolation, and poverty rates. By supporting the local emergency proclamation, the County of San Diego remains committed to working with local, state, federal, and Mexican authorities to improve conditions for these communities. Local

Environmental Justice communities who have decades of suffering from various pollution sources have been advocating and working to raise their concerns to the various agencies, and have engaged to elevate the need for data collection to document environmental injustices.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

This action letter aligns with the County of San Diego's (County) Sustainability Goals: protect health and wellbeing and the environment. The proposed action contributes to the County's Sustainability Goal No. 6 to protect the environment and promote our natural resources, diverse habitats, and cultivate a natural environment for residents, visitors, and future generations to enjoy.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this request to continue the emergency. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

Increased beach water closures resulting from sewage impacts have a direct effect for the surrounding community due to decreased tourism, patronage of local businesses, and opportunities for youth recreation and camps. By continuing a local emergency, the County of San Diego will be able to engage businesses and non-profit service providers that have been impacted by the restricted access to 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 Aguirre, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took the following actions:

1. Found that the proclamation of local emergency is not subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15060(c)(2) and (3), 15061(b)(3), and 15378(b)(4)&(5) because the action is an administrative action intended to facilitate state and federal funding, does not commit the County to a specific project, and will not have a reasonably foreseeable direct or indirect effect on the environment.
2. Found that there is a need to continue the local emergency and that the local emergency shall continue subject to review requirements until terminated pursuant to Government Code section 8630(d).
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to forward the proclamation to the State and include the following documents, which the State can also forward to the federal government:
 - a summary of recent County efforts and projects to mitigate the Tijuana River Valley pollution crisis, including but not limited to: Saturn Blvd hotspot feasibility study, AIRE purifier program enhancements, and an overview of pending epidemiological study and expanded Syndromic Surveillance efforts.
 - an overview of data and regional actions taken in response to recent hydrogen sulfide spikes exceeding established California Air Resources Board public health thresholds
 - The United States Environmental Protection Agency and United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission Joint Record of Decision for the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

- and the following academic publications:
 1. Contaminated Tijuana River Contributes to Regional Particulate Matter (PM) Levels Highlighting Overlooked Water–Air Transfer of Gaseous PM Precursors Karolina Cysneiros de Carvalho, Kelley C. Barsanti, Justi D. Hamlin, Kimberly A. Prather, and William C. Porter
 2. Tijuana River Contamination from Urban Runoff and Sewage: A Public Health Crisis at the Border by Granados, Sant, et al.
 3. Heavily Polluted Tijuana River Drives Regional Air Quality Crisis by Granados, Prather, et al.
 4. Health Impacts in Residents Exposed to Tijuana River Pollution A Community-Based Assessment of Environmental and Public Health Risks in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region by Granados et al.

AYES: Aguirre, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe

ABSENT: Anderson

NOT PRESENT: Desmond

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