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May 8, 2025

Senator Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

SB 10 (PADILLA) – Support

Dear Senator Caballero,

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support SB 10 by Senator Padilla, a measure related to funding for trans-border pollution.

For years, the communities of South San Diego County have endured the worst effects of transboundary pollution from Mexico. Ongoing trans-border flows have a severe impact on the economy and environment of the region, but most importantly, billions of gallons of raw sewage have created an untenable and serious public health threat to local communities.

The San Diego/Tijuana region is interconnected with high levels of goods, people and manufacturing crossing the border daily. That interconnectivity is one factor in the ongoing trans-border pollution with manufacturing operations in Mexico supplying goods to the US. In order to address the massive explosion of manufacturing across the border in Mexico, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) has begun a project to create a new land port of entry for the San Diego-Baja California Region. The Otay Mesa East Port of Entry (OME POE) would create a new four-lane toll road along State Route 11 and is a joint venture between SANDAG and Caltrans along with state and federal partners in the U.S. and Mexico. The construction of an additional highway will likely lead to greater expansion and intensification of border activities, transportation, and construction, adding to the ever-worsening trans-border pollution issues.

SB 10 would allow for funds from the new toll road to be used for water and sewage treatment, environmental mitigation, and restoration of the Tijuana River Valley, potentially generating millions of dollars for critical projects. These funds could be allocated for the improvement of wastewater infrastructure and related projects to address the sewage crisis and benefit the residents of South San Diego County and adjacent areas.

For these reasons, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors supports SB 10 (Padilla) and respectfully requests your “aye” vote.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Clay
Legislative Representative

CC: Members and Staff, Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Padilla