

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2025**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 18**

**SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION ENTITLED “A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO ADVOCACY FOR STATE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO ADDRESS THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY SEWAGE CRISIS” AND A-72 WAIVER (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The Tijuana River sewage crisis has had profound environmental, economic, and public health impacts across multiple communities in South San Diego County, with over 100 billion gallons of sewage crossing the international border into our region through the Tijuana River since 2018.

The Board of Supervisors (Board) declared the water pollution crisis a state of emergency in June 2023. Harmful levels of bacteria in beach water originating from the Tijuana River have caused the closure of some South County beaches for over 1,300 consecutive days. The County of San Diego (County) has since made advocacy on the Tijuana River Valley a priority to increase investment and attention towards solving this crisis.

Proposition 4, a statewide bond measure authorizing the State to borrow \$10 billion for clean water efforts, fire prevention, stormwater management, and climate resilience, was passed by the voters during the November 2024 General Election. Proposition 4 directs \$50 million to be available to the State Water Resources Control Board for projects in the Tijuana River Valley and New River watersheds that will “address water quality problems arising in the California-Mexico cross-border rivers and coastal waters.” Today’s action would adopt a resolution requesting that the State Water Resources Control Board allocate the full \$50 million of Proposition 4 cross-border rivers funding to projects aimed at addressing the ongoing environmental and public health crises in the Tijuana River Valley.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHAIR PRO TEM PALOMA AGUIRRE**

1. Waive Board Policy A-72 Agenda and Related Process, Section 2.C.2.ii, which establishes required timelines for review when preparing a Board Letter.
2. Adopt a Resolution entitled: “A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO ADVOCACY FOR STATE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO ADDRESS THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY POLLUTION CRISIS”
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to send a letter to the State Legislative Delegation requesting their support in advocacy to the State Water Resources Control Board for the allocation of \$50 million in Proposition 4 cross-border rivers funding to projects aimed at addressing the ongoing environmental and public health crises in the Tijuana River Valley

4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to send a letter to the State Water Resources Control Board requesting allocation of the full \$50 million in Proposition 4 cross-border rivers funding to projects in the Tijuana River Valley
5. Direct CAO to include the following publications as attachments to the letters included in Recommendations 3 and 4:
  - Copy of the Resolution entitled “A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO ADVOCACY FOR STATE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO ADDRESS THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY POLLUTION CRISIS”;
  - a summary of the results of the Assessment of Chemical Exposures (ACE) survey as well as the full report;
  - a summary of the results of the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) survey as well as the full report;
  - the findings of the County of San Diego’s 2023 study on the Economic Impacts of Transboundary Pollution;
  - and the following academic publications:
    - Heavily polluted Tijuana River drives regional air quality crisis by Prather, Granados, et al.
    - Tijuana River Contamination from Urban Runoff and Sewage: A Public Health Crisis at the Border by Granados, Sant, et al.
    - 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.
    - Low level exposure to hydrogen sulfide: a review of emissions, community exposure, health effects, and exposure guidelines by Batterman et al.

### **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, elevated linguistic isolation, and poverty rates. The County of San Diego (County) remains committed to working with local, State, federal, and binational authorities to improve the quality of life for these communities and residents. By advocating for increased State funding to address the pollution crisis in the Tijuana River Valley, the County aligns with the efforts of local Environmental Justice communities to raise their concerns to various agencies and elevate the need for more investment to address the crisis and protect the local environment, economy, and public health.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This action 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 the request to adopt a resolution requesting State funding allocations for local projects in the Tijuana River Valley. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

Increased beach water closures and other sewage impacts have a direct effect on the surrounding community due to decreased tourism, patronage of local businesses, and opportunities for youth recreation and camps. Obtaining funding to address the Tijuana River Valley Pollution crisis will allow for the undertaking of projects to mitigate and eliminate these impacts.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Aguirre, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, adopting Resolution No. 25-102 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO ADVOCACY FOR STATE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO ADDRESS THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY POLLUTION CRISIS.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, 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