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MATTHEW PARR
 DIRECTOR

April 24, 2026

 The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
 Chairman
 House Subcommittee on National Security,
 Department of State, and Related Programs
 H-405, The Capitol
 Washington, D.C. 20515

 The Honorable Lindsey Graham
 Chairman
 Senate Subcommittee on State, Foreign
 Operations, and Related Programs
 S-190, The Capitol
 Washington, D.C. 20510

 The Honorable Lois Frankel
 Ranking Member
 House Subcommittee on National Security,
 Department of State, and Related Programs
 1036 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

 The Honorable Brian Schatz
 Ranking Member
 Senate Subcommittee on State, Foreign
 Operations, and Related Programs
 S-127, The Capitol
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for Increased International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC) Construction Funding in Fiscal Year 2027

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart, Chairman Graham, Ranking Member Frankel, and Ranking Member Schatz:

On behalf of the County of San Diego (County), I write to express our strong support for the proposed increase in International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC) Construction funding for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27). Additionally, we are grateful for the inclusion of the \$301.3 million in the House Subcommittee's FY27 mark, released on April 22, 2026. This significant increase from \$78 million over the last two fiscal years reflects both the need for funding to address the ongoing needs of IBWC operations in San Diego County as well as the commitment from the EPA to bring an end to this crisis. Sustained and sufficient funding for the IBWC's construction account is critical for the rehabilitation and expansion of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in San Diego County, as well as other IBWC-maintained infrastructure along the U.S.–Mexico border.

For years, our region has endured the impacts of untreated sewage and contaminated flows in the Tijuana River Valley, resulting in serious public health, air quality, and environmental concerns. IBWC has documented 89 billion gallons of toxic effluent entering the U.S. through the Tijuana River since December 2022. As a result, some of our beaches have been closed for over 1,300 consecutive days due to the unsafe levels of pollutants in the water. These closures not only impact the enjoyment of San Diego's beaches for our residents, but also have downstream economic impacts for tourism and local businesses that cater to locals and tourists alike. Additionally, recent studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) demonstrate the impacts of the poor air quality to those who live, work, and learn in the impacted areas with many residents reporting exacerbated asthma symptoms and frequent headaches because of the odors caused by the sewage pollution. Beyond these community

and economic impacts, this crisis poses significant risks to active-duty military personnel who work and train in the Tijuana River Valley and in our coastal waters and to their families, who call our region home.

As noted in the FY27 IBWC Construction Budget Request, “The 2027 request is necessary to continue progress on water quality projects, including the expansion of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in San Diego County, California.” Achieving restoration of the watershed and the elimination of sewage crossing the border requires not only timely completion of the SBIWTP expansion, but also reliable operations and maintenance funding to ensure the facility operates efficiently and does not fall into disrepair.

Due to generous disaster relief funding provided through the *American Relief Act of 2025*, the SBIWTP expanded its treatment capacity by 10 million gallons per day (MGD) last year, increasing total capacity from 25 MGD to 35 MGD. This progress reflects effective federal partnership and represents long-overdue investment that our region welcomes.

Additionally, the FY27 Budget Request further indicates that \$250 million in prior-year IBWC construction appropriations will be obligated to support continued expansion—targeting 50 MGD capacity by December 31, 2027, with an ultimate goal of 75 MGD. Achieving these milestones would be transformational for the health and safety of our County’s 3.3 million residents.

Recent reports indicate that Mexico is on track to meet its \$93 million FY26 and FY27 commitment for previously agreed-upon border water infrastructure projects, helping ensure the SBIWTP’s completion by the December 31, 2027, deadline. It is critical that the United States meet this moment with equal commitment.

The County of San Diego appreciates your continued leadership as we work together to resolve the Tijuana River Sewage Crisis. We remain committed to partnering in efforts to protect our residents, environment, economy, and military personnel for generations to come. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at (619) 372-2126 or Matthew.Parr@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Matthew Parr
Director, Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs
County of San Diego

CC:

U.S. House Committee on Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations Chairwoman Susan Collins
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations Ranking Member Patty Murray
Sen. Alex Padilla
Sen. Adam Schiff
Rep. Darrell Issa
Rep. Mike Levin
Rep. Scott Peters
Rep. Sara Jacobs

Rep. Juan Vargas