

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on the Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
2007 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on the Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree:

We write to request that you include \$100 million in funding for the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

EPA's Border Water Infrastructure Program helps finance critical infrastructure projects focused on public health and the environment on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. In California, cross-boundary water pollution has been plaguing border communities for decades. Every year hundreds of millions of gallons of raw sewage—human and chemical waste from commercial and industrial facilities—flows down through the Tijuana River and the New River, across the U.S.-Mexico border, into California communities. The pollution endangers public health, hurts local economies, and poisons local ecosystems.

The Border Water Infrastructure Program plays a fundamental role in helping address cross-boundary water pollution in California and other environmental and public health challenges across our U.S.-Mexico border. BWIP is the only federal program that can fund projects on both sides of the border, with all projects benefiting communities on the U.S. side of the border. As part of the program, EPA investments in wastewater projects are protecting public health from waterborne diseases and have been a key factor in significant water quality improvements in the U.S. waterbodies, such as the Rio Grande (Texas and New Mexico), Santa Cruz River (Arizona), New River (California), and the Tijuana River and Pacific Ocean (California).

While BWIP's funding has made significant progress in addressing the public health and environmental impacts of inadequate drinking water and wastewater infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico Border, more funding is needed to meet project demand. Therefore, we respectfully request \$100 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



---

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



---

Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



---

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



---

Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress