

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2023

The Honorable James Michael Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Democratic Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write today to urge that the \$310 million for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) that President Biden included in his supplemental budget request be included in any government funding package.

This critical facility, managed by the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), treats sewage originating from Baja California, Mexico, which flows north onto San Diego's shores. This contaminated water contains raw sewage, industrial waste, trash, and toxic chemicals that pollute our seas, cause illness, damage the local and state economy, and compromise our national and homeland security. As the Government of Mexico continues to meet [treaty requirements](#) to pay for annual maintenance of the plant and treatment of sewage water, we must ensure we meet our obligations in [Minute 328](#). In [June](#), congressional offices learned that the treatment plant is in such dire shape that significantly more funding is needed to rehabilitate and expand it.

The beaches of [Imperial Beach](#) and [Coronado](#) have been closed repeatedly for two summers in a row due to dangerous contamination. Excess flows, [bacteria-filled sediment](#), and contaminated [aerosol pollutants](#) pose a serious public health risk to the region. Additionally, Navy SEAL training in Coronado is often [forced to move ocean training events](#) to different locations to ensure our warfighters are not sickened by polluted waters containing fecal matter. Similarly, federal Homeland Security agents assigned to the region have [identified](#) extensive hazards they confront when patrolling in the Tijuana River Valley. An inability to train for military operations or patrol our nation's border represents an unacceptable risk to our national security and to the health of our servicemembers and law enforcement personnel.

Years of underinvestment by the federal government left SBIWTP in critical need of emergency repairs and expansion to treat increased flows resulting from extreme weather events, such as Hurricane Hilary, and population growth in the region. Without this additional funding, SBIWTP is forced to keep pumping untreated water into the ocean, threatening the health and national

security of the region. We urge you to provide \$310 million for the SBIWTP in any final appropriations package. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



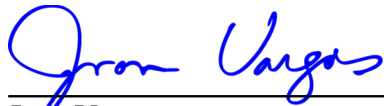
Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



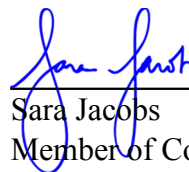
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Ryan K. Zinke
Member of Congress
Commander, U.S. Navy SEALs (ret)



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress