



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 2, 2019

Carlos Peña, Jr., P.E.  
Area Operations Manager  
U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission  
2995 Clearwater Way  
San Diego, CA 92154

Dear Mr. Peña,

I am writing in response to the most recent sewage spill in Tijuana, Mexico that is flowing into San Diego County. It was reported that on December 10, 2018, a “collector poniente” in Tijuana ruptured, resulting in raw sewage flowing into the Tijuana River and subsequently the Pacific Ocean - near and within my district. It was reported that the spill is ongoing at a rate of six to seven million gallons per day. At this rate, the spill was on track to be the largest since February 2017. I implore you to do whatever can be done to permanently mitigate this sewage flow and to provide my office with a report outlining if correct notification protocol was followed.

On October 18, 2018, I attended a San Diego/Tijuana Transboundary Pollution Stakeholder Meeting to, among other things, review efforts to address timely notifications of sewage spills. There, IBWC Environmental Division Chief Gilbert Anaya provided an update on notification protocol. Now, members of the community and public officials have expressed concern that the public was not notified in accordance with those protocols for this most recent spill, which may be attributed to the rain event that occurred on December 5 and 6, 2018. I have a great interest in seeing if the official protocol was followed.

Despite the millions of dollars of U.S. infrastructure investments on both sides of the border, over the last two decades, wastewater, trash, and sediment continue to flow from Baja California, Mexico into San Diego County. Transboundary flows result in unsanitary water conditions, pollution, and beach closures, impacting the region’s environment, public health, and economy. This problem must be fixed without delay.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you on this, and other, transnational issues. Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott H. Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

SCOTT H. PETERS  
Member of Congress  
US House of Representatives  
California, 52<sup>nd</sup> District