



January 10, 2017

Geronimo Gutierrez, Managing Director
North American Development Bank
203 South St. Mary's, Suite 300
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Dear Mr. Gutierrez:

The more than 16 miles of beaches in South San Diego County, as well as parkland in the Tijuana River Valley, are vital recreational assets for our residents and for the tourism economy of our region. Tourism, ocean sports, beaches and sunsets are the very heart of our communities. Placing access restriction signage on local beaches as a response to cross-border pollution is not a long-term solution to this critical problem. In 2015, there were 233 days of beach closures at Border Field State Park, 74 days of beach closures at the Imperial Beach pier, and 41 days of beach closures in portions of Coronado.

The purpose of this letter is to emphasize the binational need to fast-track funds and resources to address the known causes of poor water quality that continues to impact the beaches and open space of south San Diego County. We would like to express strong support for much needed efforts to improve water quality along the U.S.-Mexico border. It is important that all levels of government in the U.S. and Mexico work in partnership to address this serious issue that impacts the economy of the border region and has significant health implications for residents on both sides of the border.

Two key elements in this effort are reducing the flow of raw and treated sewage into the ocean at the San Antonio de los Buenos Treatment Plant (Punta Banderas) and stopping the discharge of treated and untreated sewage into the Tijuana River. The coastal shoreline of Imperial Beach and northward into Coronado continues to be devastated by persistent water quality impacts from these sources. Perhaps more importantly, sewage flows also impact operations at Naval Base Coronado, a critical center for Naval Special Warfare operations and training.

In 1997, the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) certified and approved a \$7 million upgrade to improve the Punta Banderas treatment facility. After nearly 20 years, there is a need to complete some necessary and significant upgrades to Punta Banderas. Both CESPT and the US EPA agree that the facility is beyond capacity and no longer able to provide effective wastewater treatment. The discharge of partially treated wastewater on the beach at Punta Banderas is now recognized as a major cause of contaminated water in Imperial Beach and Coronado as identified by a Scripps Institute of Oceanography research project. The study indicates that pollutant transport times are only 6-14 hours for sewage plumes to reach Imperial Beach and the south end of Coronado during prolonged southerly swells and winds.

Equally important is the need to eliminate transboundary flows in the Tijuana River. Even during dry weather conditions, the increase in treated wastewater discharges from the Arturo Herrera and La Morita treatment plants result in a greater frequency and volume of flows into the United States. Thus, it is necessary to both increase the operational capacity of the CILA Tijuana River Diverter and create a system to reuse the treated water from Arturo Herrera and La Morita in order to stop unnecessary transboundary river flows.

We ask you to take an active role in helping us address these critically important issues. The NADB as well as the Border Environment Cooperation Commission can help support and prioritize key projects in the US-Mexico border region that are necessary to protect human health and enhance our local economies. We hope that if the NADB can fast-track a desalination plant in Rosarito Beach to increase water supply in northern Baja California, it must provide equally resolve the unacceptable binational water pollution that impacts south San Diego County.

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Very Respectfully,



Mary Salas, Mayor, City of Chula Vista



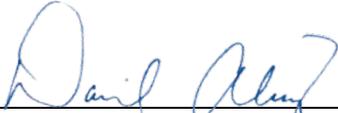
Richard Bailey, Mayor, City of Coronado



Ron Morrison, Mayor, City of National City



Serge Dedina, Mayor, City of Imperial Beach



David Alvarez, Councilmember, City of San Diego

cc:

US Congressman Scott Peters
US Congressman Juan Vargas
US Senator Dianne Feinstein
US Senator Kamala Harris
US Ambassador Roberta S. Jacobson
US Consulate General William Ostick
Commissioner Edward Drusina
Cónsul Marcela Celorio
Marino Escobedo Lavín, Office of the Governor of Baja California
Supervisor Greg Cox
Edmund G. Brown, Jr., California Governor
Senator Ben Hueso
Senator Toni Atkins
Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez
Assembly member Todd Gloria
Kevin Faulconer, Mayor, City of San Diego
Sandra Dibble, UT San Diego
KPBS
Steve Smullen, IBWC
Roberto F. Salmon, CILA Commissioner
David Gibson, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Mark McPherson, San Diego County Chief of Land and Water Quality Division