

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 12, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries:

We write to urgently request full funding for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in any upcoming disaster supplemental package.

The State Department's International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) operates a federally owned water treatment facility, the SBIWTP, along the San Diego-Tijuana border to treat the transnational flow of polluted water. Years of underinvestment have reduced the SBIWTP's capacity to treat the toxic effluent it receives, resulting in the discharge of treated and untreated stormwater and wastewater into the ocean. As a result, tides carrying polluted water into San Diego degrade the environment, disrupt U.S. Navy and border security operations, and threaten the local economy.


In 2021, the San Diego Congressional delegation secured \$300 million in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) to fund an expansion of the SBIWTP from 25 million gallons per day (mgd) to 50 mgd. This funding, in combination with Fiscal Year 2024 funding, has supported the planning, study, and design of projects critical for the rehabilitation and expansion of SBIWTP. However, last year we learned that significantly more funding is needed to rehabilitate the plant before the IBWC can expand the plant. These new costs jeopardize the United States' ability to fulfill its international obligations under the treaty known as [Minute 328](#).

Securing emergency funding is crucial to rehabilitate and expand the plant in order to protect public health and the environment, and to stop the economic damage cross-border sewage flows have had on our communities for far too long. For these reasons, we are requesting the highest amount of funding possible for IBWC in any supplemental package or budget deal in order to address deferred maintenance and expand capacity at SBIWTP. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

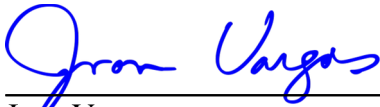
Sincerely,




Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



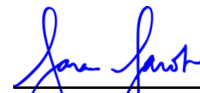
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Laphonza Butler
United States Senator



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



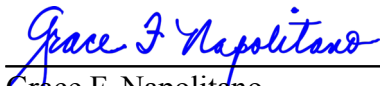
Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

cc:

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Susan Collins, Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee