



_____, 2024

President Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Governor Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President Biden and Governor Newsom,

My name is _____. I am a

_____ in the Coronado Unified School District family.

As a concerned member of the Coronado Unified School District, I am writing to draw your urgent attention to a matter of grave concern: the pollution and environmental crisis plaguing the Tijuana River and its surrounding areas, particularly in San Diego County, California. The Tijuana River, serving as a border between the United States and Mexico, has become a conduit for over thirty-seven billion gallons of toxic effluent into our country. This contamination not only threatens our natural ecosystems but also endangers the health and safety of our students, staff, and surrounding communities.

Our local High School has started a "Stop the Sewage" Club and has been working tirelessly to shed light on the dire situation we are facing. We are so proud of their efforts and support their mission. Our students, their families, and our entire community are concerned about their learning environment being contaminated with "toxic sea mist" as some of their classrooms are a mere 600 feet from the Pacific shoreline. That shoreline is contaminated and has been closed to water lovers - at some spots for over 800 days! The repercussions of this pollution are stark and unacceptable. The once pristine beaches of Imperial Beach and Coronado now remain closed due to contaminated water, depriving residents, particularly those from underserved and disadvantaged communities, of vital recreational opportunities and posing significant health risks. Undeniably, the sewage from Tijuana is a long-term problem that needs a long-term solution.

I am aware that funds have been approved by the Biden administration for repairs & upgrades to the sewage treatment plant in Imperial Beach that treats sewage flowing north from Tijuana, but this is a stopgap and does not address the shutdown of the Punta Bandera sewage treatment plant in Mexico. One possible solution is to leverage the free trade agreement with Mexico (and Canada) to force Mexico to fix their problem - the dysfunctional treatment plant at Punta Banderas. This would likely meet resistance from some sectors, but perhaps the price of leveraging the free trade agreement to clean up the sewage would be well worth it for public health and safety. In light of these pressing concerns, we implore you to take decisive action.

I urge Governor Newsom to proclaim a State of Emergency in San Diego County and provide all necessary state assistance. Similarly, we call upon President Biden to declare a Federal Emergency in our region and allocate appropriate federal resources to address this crisis.

I deserve and demand environmental justice and I want my beaches clean because:

Furthermore, I advocate for increased long-term funding at the local, state, and federal levels to bolster water quality infrastructure in our region. It is imperative that we invest in sustainable solutions to mitigate the harmful effects of pollution and safeguard the well-being of our communities for generations to come. Lastly, I urge our local, state, and federal legislators to prioritize the allocation of resources towards improving air quality to protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and residents. This request reflects the collective voice of our community, underscoring the urgent need for coordinated action to address this environmental emergency.

I stand ready to collaborate with you in implementing effective solutions and ensuring a cleaner, safer future for all.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS (optional): _____

Relationship to CUSD: _____