



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**RAUL A. CAMPILLO**

COUNCILMEMBER • SEVENTH DISTRICT

September 16, 2024

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Chairman  
Senate Environment & Public Works  
Committee  
513 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
House Transportation & Infrastructure  
Committee  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Senate Environment & Public Works  
Committee  
170 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation & Infrastructure  
Committee  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

*Re: Request for Support: Environmental Infrastructure Program for San Diego County in WRDA  
2024*

Dear Chairman Carper, Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Capito, and Ranking Member  
Larsen:

As Chair of the City of San Diego's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, I am writing to strongly urge your support for the inclusion of a new Environmental Infrastructure (EI) program for San Diego County and the Tijuana River Valley Watershed in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024. This essential program is included in both S. 4367 and H.R. 8812 and is critical for addressing the persistent environmental and public health crisis posed by raw sewage contamination in the Tijuana River Valley.

For too long, my constituents and San Diego's regional economy have borne the brunt of this crisis. Untreated sewage from the Tijuana River Valley continues to contaminate our beaches, creating severe health risks and undermining the well-being of our residents, local businesses, and even federal personnel stationed near our border, including Navy Seals who train in these waters. This pollution is not just an environmental issue but an economic one—disrupting tourism, closing our beaches, and impacting the many local businesses that rely on a clean and healthy coastline to attract visitors.

During recent storm events, over 14.5 billion gallons of raw sewage have entered the region, leading to closures of several of our iconic beaches, even over holiday weekends when local businesses most depend on visitor traffic. The EI program would provide much-needed funding to invest in infrastructure that addresses stormwater management, water quality improvements, and environmental restoration projects, ensuring our beaches are safe and our economy continues to thrive.

I urge you to consider the full authorization of \$200 million for this EI program in the final WRDA 2024 conference report. This level of investment is crucial to safeguarding both the public health and economic vitality of our region. I am proud to stand with San Diego's Congressional delegation in advancing this critical initiative and deeply thank our Senators for their pivotal role in securing the programs inclusion in the Senate bill.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at [RaulCampillo@sandiego.gov](mailto:RaulCampillo@sandiego.gov).

Sincerely yours,



Raul A. Campillo  
District 7, Councilmember  
City of San Diego

RAC:cs

CC:

Senator Alex Padilla  
Senator Laphonza Butler  
Representative Scott Peters  
Representative Juan Vargas  
Representative Mike Levin  
Representative Darrell Issa  
Representative Sara Jacobs