

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 5, 2017

The Honorable Edward Drusina
Commissioner
United States International Boundary Water Commission
4171 North Mesa Street
El Paso, Texas 79902

Dear Commissioner Drusina:

We are writing to follow-up on the recent *Transboundary Bypass Flows into the Tijuana River* report released by the U.S. International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC). As you are well aware, approximately 28 million gallons of sewage was discharged into the Tijuana River Valley in February resulting in beach closures throughout the region. We are respectfully requesting that the IBWC, along with stakeholders on both sides of the border, enact the recommendations from the report to ensure that communities in the Tijuana River Valley are secure from containments and wastewaters discharges.

Although the IBWC has made infrastructure investments along the California-Mexico border since its inception, continuous flows of pollutions remain an outstanding issue for the San Diego coastline. Not only does this issue impact adjacent beach communities, but also directly affects our military readiness for the nearby installations. This is why we request that the IBWC investigate the feasibility of additional infrastructure projects on the U.S. side of the border that can address transboundary flows and most importantly, deal with sewage and trash that ends up in the Tijuana River and the Pacific Ocean. A study of the predicted costs of the additional infrastructure will assist those in Congress to advocate for these projects.

The recommendations enumerated in the report provide a strong initial pathway to begin solving this matter with your counterparts in Mexico. These include laying out the equipment needs to respond to emergency situations, greater data collection and formalizing communication lines with the Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (CILA). We are encouraged by the work of the Minute 320 Quality Work Group as they assess the cost and benefits of addressing the issue of sediment, water quality and trash in the Tijuana Valley River. We urge you to continue to address this matter as it remains a pressing concerns for our constituents.

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

Sincerely,




JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress

DARRELL E. ISSA
Member of Congress



SCOTT H. PETERS
Member of Congress



SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress