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February 23, 2024

The Honorable David Alvarez
1021 O Street, Suite 5320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AJR 12 (Alvarez) Tijuana River: cross-border pollution
Notice of SUPPORT (January 24, 2024)

Dear Assemblymember Alvarez:

The City of Vista is pleased to support Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 12, which would urge the United States Congress to support President Joseph R. Biden's \$310,000,000 supplemental funding request for the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC).

Cross-border pollution in the Tijuana River Valley is directly affecting Southern California cities, the health of community members, and the local ecosystem. Both the City and County of San Diego, as well as the City of Imperial Beach, have declared a state of emergency in response to increasing levels of pollution, including increased discharge of trash, sediment, and wastewater. The USIBWC has documented that over 200 billion gallons of toxic effluent has flowed into the United States. This pollution has led to increased number of annual illnesses for residents in the area and the closure of popular city attractions, such as local beaches, that dampen local economic activity and harm the quality of life in the region.

While this environmental disaster is occurring in southern California, the lack of greater state and federal action could set a precedent for all of California's coast in complying with necessary state and federal laws. The lack of financial and technical support to address these longstanding issues threaten the California Constitution (Article 10, Section 4) and the California Coastal Act of 1976, which guarantee maximum public access to the coast, tidal lands, and navigable waters of the state. Additionally, upholding compliance with federal laws, including the Clean Water Act, Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, is necessary given the national and international agreements in this region.

For these reasons, the City of Vista Supports AJR 12, urging federal support to address the devastating impacts in this region.

Sincerely,

John B. Franklin
Mayor
City of Vista

cc. Office of Assemblymember Laurie Davis, assemblymember.davies@assembly.ca.gov
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