

TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY POLLUTION SOLUTION BILL PACKAGE (VARGAS, PETERS, DAVIS, LEVIN)

POSITION: The Chamber's International Business Affairs Committee voted to SUPPORT HR 3895, HR 511, and HR 4039.

STATUS:

HR 3895 – Referred to Committee on Financial Services 7/23/19.

HR 511 – Referred to Committee on Armed Services 7/23/19.

HR 4039 - Referred to Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environmental 7/26/19.

AT-A-GLANCE

A comprehensive approach to identify and prioritize funding for projects that specifically address water pollution, wastewater treatment, and water conservation to lessen the risk of polluted flows.

Bill Package Summary:

Three separate bills identify funding opportunities within the North American Development Bank, involving the Department of the Navy, and increasing the Border Water Infrastructure Fund.

H.R. 3895 North American Development Bank Pollution Solution Act (Vargas and Peters):

- The bill aims to expand funding opportunities within the North American Development Bank (NADBank).
- Increase NADBank's capital by \$1.5 billion to finance infrastructure projects.
- Directs NADBank to prioritize projects related to wastewater treatment, water conservation, and water pollution. In addition, the bill urges NADBank to streamline and accelerate these types of projects.
- Establishes, within NADBank, the "U.S.-Mexico Border Public Health Trust Fund", allowing federal agencies to deposit unallocated funding to design, implement, and finance environmental infrastructure projects relating to wastewater treatment, water conservation, and municipal solid waste along the U.S.-Mexico border.

HR 511 Tijuana River Navy Impact Resolution (Davis):

- Encourages the Department of the Navy to take a leading role in the mitigation of transboundary spills, discharges, and debris in the Tijuana River that impact national security interests.

HR 4039 Border Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (Levin):

- Increases authorization for the Border Water Infrastructure Fund to \$150 million per year for the next five years.
- Changes the current division of funding to fifty-fifty between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6, which includes Texas and New Mexico, and Region 9, which includes California and Arizona.

Background:

- Divided by the international border, San Diego shares a watershed with Tijuana which consists of the Tijuana River, the Tijuana River estuary, and the ocean shoreline.
- For over 30 years, the Tijuana River watershed has experienced an increased discharge of trash, sediment, and wastewater from Tijuana's tightly packed neighborhoods that are not captured and sent for treatment, ending up downstream on the beaches of southern San Diego County.
- Rain places additional pressure on Tijuana's subterranean network of sewage pipes, many of which are in need of replacement and maintenance.

Regional Impact:

- Sewage, plastic, heavy metals, and chemical pollution in coastal waters.
- Over 500 beach closures and advisories in the U.S. since 2015.
- Up to 50 million gallons of treated and untreated sewage every day.
- Disruptions to local military installations.

The Chamber continues to work with both the U.S. and Mexican governments advocating for the creation of a work plan between both governments to increase measurable efforts in mitigating pollution.

Full text of [HR 3895](#), [HR 511](#), and [HR 4039](#).