

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 26, 2023

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 Seventeenth Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young,

We write to request that you include \$100 million for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP) in the President's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

EPA's Border Water Infrastructure Program helps finance critical infrastructure projects focused on public health and the environment on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. In California, cross-boundary water pollution has been plaguing border communities for decades. Every year hundreds of millions of gallons of raw sewage—human and chemical waste from commercial and industrial facilities—flows down through the Tijuana River and the New River, across the U.S.-Mexico border, into California communities. The pollution endangers public health, hurts local economies, and poisons local ecosystems.

The Border Water Infrastructure Program plays a fundamental role in helping address cross-boundary water pollution in California and other environmental and public health challenges across our U.S.-Mexico border. BWIP is the only federal program that can fund projects on both sides of the border, with all projects benefiting communities on the U.S. side of the border. As part of the program, EPA investments in wastewater projects are protecting public health from waterborne diseases and have been a key factor in significant water quality improvements in the U.S. waterbodies, such as the Rio Grande (Texas and New Mexico), Santa Cruz River (Arizona), New River (California), and the Tijuana River and Pacific Ocean (California).

While BWIP's funding has made significant progress in addressing the public health and environmental impacts of inadequate drinking water and wastewater infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico Border, more funding is needed to meet project demand. Based on current project applications, BWIP could only fund \$120 million out of \$320 million in outstanding requests. Therefore, we respectfully request \$100 million in the President's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for the Border Water Infrastructure Program.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
U.S. Representative



Juan Vargas
U.S. Representative



Sara Jacobs
U.S. Representative



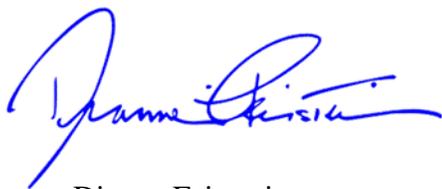
Mike Levin
U.S. Representative



Darrell Issa
U.S. Representative



Raul Ruiz
U.S. Representative



Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator



Alex Padilla
U.S. Senator