

**DRAFT****RESOLUTION 20xx-xxx****RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE CONTINUANCE  
OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO THE ON-  
GOING TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY  
TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION CRISIS**

**WHEREAS**, the San Diego Unified Port District (District) is a public corporation created by the legislature in 1962 pursuant to Harbors and Navigation Code Appendix 1 (Port Act); and

**WHEREAS**, on April 3, 2024, by Resolution No. 2024-0085, the Board of Port Commissioners (Board/BPC) adopted a proclamation of a local emergency relating to the on-going Tijuana River Valley transboundary pollution crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, BPC Policy No. 777, dated June 23, 2020, (Clerk's Document #71570), details the District's Emergency Management policy, which requires the Board review the need for the continuation of the local emergency at least every 60 days until the local emergency is terminated; and

**WHEREAS**, since the adoption of the initial Emergency Proclamation, there have been multiple continuances of the local emergency by the Board due to the continued and ongoing presence of transboundary flows and beach closures that are beyond the control of local resources, requiring substantial efforts and resources of the federal and state government; and

**WHEREAS**, the most recent continuance occurred on January 14, 2025, by Resolution No. 2025-016, at which time the Board continued the proclamation to March 15, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, this proclamation will expire unless continued by this action;  
and

**WHEREAS**, another continuance of the proclamation of a local emergency is needed due to the continued on-going pollution and contamination from transboundary flows within the Tijuana River Valley watershed and nearby coastline on both the U.S. and Mexico sides of the border; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board and the District maintains its position to advocate for additional funding to complete the Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution, involving Tijuana River diversion projects and expanding the treatment capacity at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) operated and managed by the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) once critical repairs are completed; and

20xx-xxx

**WHEREAS**, these projects are essential to modernize the wastewater treatment system on both sides of the border and reopen beaches along the south San Diego County shoreline from the Tijuana Slough to Border Field State Park which have now been closed every day for over 1,100 days; and

**WHEREAS**, air quality in the Tijuana River Valley has also been severely impacted and has been the focus of various agencies and local groups; and

**WHEREAS**, recent efforts include two surveys conducted by the CDC, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the County of San Diego to gather information focused on improving the understanding of the health impacts on the affected communities and to help guide future public health actions at a local, state, and federal level; and

**WHEREAS**, the results of the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) survey, released in January 2025, support the physical, mental health, and quality of life concerns expressed by the affected communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the results of the second survey, called an Assessment for Chemical Exposures (ACE), are pending; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Diego and the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (APCD) are continuing their efforts to distribute air purifiers to residents in south San Diego County communities near the Tijuana River Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, while the local communities need relief from the odors and poor air quality in the short term, the Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution is needed to address the current emergency and provide a long-term solution to both air and water quality impairments; and

**WHEREAS**, staff is recommending continuing the declaration at the March 11, 2025, Board meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, this action will continue the local emergency for an additional 60 days to May 10, 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED** by the Board of Port Commissioners (BPC) that that the local emergency declared by the BPC on January 14, 2025, by Resolution No. 2025-009 continues and is extended based on the continuous flow of untreated sewage and pollutants in the Tijuana River Valley and coastal waters.

20xx-xxx

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this District shall be those prescribed by BPC Policy No. 777, state law, ordinances and resolutions of the District.

**BE IT FUTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that this emergency proclamation shall continue to and expire on May 10, 2025, which is 60 days from the date of this proclamation, unless confirmed and extended by the BPC prior to the expiration date.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:  
GENERAL COUNSEL

---

By: Assistant/Deputy

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Port Commissioners of the San Diego Unified Port District, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025, by the following vote: