

Mayor Pro Tem Carrie Downey

Agenda Item 8(a) Report for the Period August 21, 2025-October 4, 2025

Date	Meeting/Event	Activity
8/21/2025	MTS	Represented Coronado at MTS Board Meeting
8/22/2025	San Diego Military Advisory Council	Represented Coronado at SDMAC dinner meeting
8/26/2025	Met with CM Kelly Purvis	CCA Subcommittee meeting
9/4/2025	National League of Cities Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Policy Subcommittee	Prepared NLC EENR Committee Resolution supporting continued funding of border infrastructure projects to address Border sewage crisis. Presented for its adoption.
9/11/2025	MTS	Represented Coronado at MTS Board Meeting. MTS staff presented future funding policy options to address future financial cliff.
9/12/2024	SANDAG	Represented Coronado at SANDAG Board Meeting.
9/15/2025	Met with City Manager Tina Friend	Received briefing on Coronado CC Meeting Agenda
9/17/2025	National League of Cities Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Policy Subcommittee	Continued discussion re: Border Infrastructure Funding Resolution and obtained Committee approval. (EENR Resolution is attached) Resolution will go before NLC Board at Annual Meeting in November.
9/17/2025	Police Dept. annual dinner recognizing Police Senior Volunteers	Joined Chief of Police and fellow Council members in recognizing assistance to City welfare provided by Senior Volunteers.
9/19/2025	SANDAG Regional Planning and Transportation Committees Joint meeting.	Represented Coronado as Chair of RPS Committee.
9/24/2025	Naval Base Coronado Staff and City Leaders dinner	Represented Coronado City Council
9/25/2025	Coronado Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting	Participated in Chamber ribbon cutting for Sara Stillman Law Offices
10/2/2025	Coronado Chamber of Commerce Annual event honoring City employees.	Represented Coronado City Council.
10/3/2025	SANDAG Regional Planning Committee	Chaired RPC Meeting.
10/4/2025	KMAC Foundation/Eagle Scout presentation	Represented Coronado at ceremony accepting Eagle Scout project to assist charity that provides free sailing lessons to disabled sailors.

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-16

INCREASE FUNDING FOR BORDER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

WHEREAS, international transboundary rivers on the southern border of the United States are a major source of sewage, trash, chemicals, heavy metals and toxins; and

WHEREAS, transboundary flows threaten the health of 18 million residents in the United States and Mexico, harm important estuarine land and water of international significance, force closure of beaches, damage farmland, compromise border security, and directly affect U.S. military readiness;¹ and

WHEREAS, a significant amount of untreated sewage, sediment, hazardous chemicals and trash have entered United States waters via the Tijuana and New Rivers in southern California, the Santa Cruz and San Pedro Rivers in Arizona and the Rio Grande in Texas, eventually draining into coastal waterways, waterbodies and inland waters, such as the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, the presence of pollution on state and federal public lands is creating unsafe conditions for visitors and residents—these lands are taxpayer supported and intended to be managed for recreation, resource conservation and the enjoyment by the public; and

WHEREAS, the current insufficient and degrading infrastructure in the border zone poses a significant risk to the public health and safety of residents and the environment on both sides of the border, and places economic stress on communities struggling to mitigate the negative impacts of pollution; and

WHEREAS, the 1944 treaty between the United States and Mexico regarding *Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande* allocates flows on transborder rivers between Mexico and the United States, and provides that the nations, through their respective sections of the International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC) shall give control of sanitation in cross border flows the highest priority; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States and Mexico entered into the *Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning the Establishment of a North American Development Bank* which created the North American Development Bank (NADB) to certify and fund environmental infrastructure projects in border-area communities; and

¹ Memorandum, “Tijuana River Pollution Crisis in San Diego County,” California Coastal Commission (Sept. 29, 2023); available at: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2023/10/W6b/W6b-10-2023-appendix.pdf>

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WHEREAS, on November 30, 2018 the United States, Mexico and Canada entered into the *Agreement Between The United States of America, The United Mexican States, And Canada* to replace the *North American Free Trade Agreement*, and on December 10, 2019 the United States, Mexico and Canada agreed to a protocol of amendment to the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which became effective in the United States on January 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the implementing language of USMCA authorizes and allocates funding for grants under the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP), the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund and recapitalization of the NADB, including \$300 million to address the problem of toxic sewage flowing from the Tijuana River watershed; and

WHEREAS, border communities need modernized and innovative water infrastructure to provide clean and sanitary drinking water to improve the quality of living and support the expanding communities; and

WHEREAS, the adverse environmental impact will worsen existing environmental issues and strain aging infrastructure, while also creating new environmental issues in the future; and

WHEREAS, the widespread threat to public health and safety, damage to fish and wildlife resources and degradation to the environment caused by transboundary pollution in the border states requires urgent action by the federal and state governments; and

WHEREAS, Congress authorized funding under the Safe Drinking Water Act and established the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) program for the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program in 1996 to provide grants for high-priority water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure projects within 100 kilometers of the southern border; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers the STAG and BWIP, and coordinates with the NADB to allocate BWIP grant funds to projects in the border zone; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the BWIP has provided funding for projects in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas that would not have been constructed without the grant program; and

76 **WHEREAS**, the BWIP program was initially funded at \$100 million per year, but the program
77 has been significantly reduced to \$35 million in FY24 and FY25;² and

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79 **WHEREAS**, EPA and the U.S. section of the IWBC identified high-priority wastewater collection
80 and treatment facilities needed in the border area;³ and

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82 **WHEREAS**, Mexico has identified multiple priority projects and pledged \$144 million in short-
83 term capital contributions;⁴ and

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85 **WHEREAS**, a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the United States and Mexico in July
86 2025 sets a timeframe for Mexico to complete all projects by Dec. 31, 2027 and the United
87 States, which has withheld additional funding to projects until Mexico fulfilled their obligations
88 toward other projects, agreed to release BWIP funding to complete the rehabilitation of Pump
89 Station 1 and the Tijuana River collection pipes;⁵ and

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91 **WHEREAS**, the pollution from transboundary sewage flows were spread even farther north in
92 the Pacific Ocean by Hurricane Hilary on August 19-20, 2023 because the infrastructure has not
93 been maintained and new needed facilities have not been built;⁶ and

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95 **WHEREAS**, transboundary sewage flows release toxic gases causing unhealthy air quality in
96 South San Diego County⁷ where “concentration of hydrogen sulfide...peaked at 4,500 ppb [parts
97 per billion] for at least a minute and up to an average of 2,100 ppb for one hour—the latter
98 exceeding the California Air Resources Board’s one hour standard [of 30 ppb] by nearly 70
99 times;⁸” and

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² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Infrastructure Programs and FY2024 Appropriations, Congressional Research Service (March 27, 2025); available at: <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF12950>

³ Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and International Boundary and Water Commission (Nov. 2, 2022); available at: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-11/Programmatic%20Environmental%20Impact%20Statement.pdf>

⁴ Statement of Intent and Minute 328, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; available at: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-10/Summary%20of%20Agreements.pdf>

⁵ United States and Mexico Reach Agreement to Permanently and Urgently End Decades-Long Tijuana River Sewage Crisis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (July 24, 2025); available at: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/united-states-and-mexico-reach-agreement-permanently-and-urgently-end-decades-long>

⁶ Pump Failure Pushes 20,000 Gallons of Tijuana River Valley Sewage into South Bay Streets, The Coronado Times (Aug. 31, 2023); available at: <https://coronadotimes.com/news/2023/08/31/pump-failure-pushes-20000-gallons-of-tijuana-river-valley-sewage-into-south-bay-streets/>

⁷ Tijuana River’s Toxic Water Pollutes the Air, UC San Diego Today (Aug. 28, 2025); available at: <https://today.ucsd.edu/story/tijuana-rivers-toxic-water-pollutes-the-air>

⁸ B. Rico, K. Barsanti, K. DeCarvalho, P. Granados, and K. Prather, Heavily Polluted Tijuana River Drives Regional Air Quality Crisis, Science (Aug. 28, 2025); available at: <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adv1343>

101 **WHEREAS**, without federal partnership through the BWIP and state support to address
102 pollution, cities that are impacted by transboundary sewage and toxic waste flows are left with
103 limited resources to address a critical pollution and public health issue and limited legal remedies
104 to address the problem; and

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106 **WHEREAS**, Mexico benefits from the bi-national funding program and relies on the NADB to
107 assist in funding projects on the Mexico side of the border, which have an immediate and long-
108 term environmental impact along the border in the U.S. due to the upstream, transboundary flows
109 of the major rivers; and

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111 **WHEREAS**, local governments and the public support the State's primary objectives in
112 complying with environmental laws including the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act,
113 and their state law analogues, and are supported by substantial public investments at all levels of
114 government to maintain a healthy and sustainable environment for the future.

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116 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities urges the Federal
117 government to continue to fund the Border Water Infrastructure Program, and to recommit to
118 working bi-nationally to develop and implement long-term solutions to address serious water
119 quality and contamination issues, such as discharges of untreated sewage and polluted sediment
120 and trash-laden transboundary flows originating from Mexico, resulting in significant health,
121 environmental, and safety concerns of affected communities.