

**SOUTH BAY UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Imperial Beach, California**

**PROCLAMATION**

**South Bay Union School District Proclaims a Local Emergency – Pollution Environmental Crisis**

**ON MOTION** of Member Quinones, seconded by Member Ellsworth, the following Proclamation is adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the Imperial Beach shoreline located in South San Diego County is polluted with sewage, industrial runoff, and trash from the Tijuana River. The problem is exacerbated by seasonal ocean currents, the Tijuana River Watershed, and climate-driven weather events; and

**WHEREAS**, the communities of Imperial Beach and south San Diego are experiencing serious health, financial, and environmental impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Imperial Beach shoreline has been closed due to contaminated water for over 800 days. This is particularly troubling because Imperial Beach offers easy and affordable beach and ocean access for many of San Diego's underserved and disadvantaged communities; and

**WHEREAS**, untreated wastewater and sewage in the ocean poses substantial health risks to residents and beach tourists from bacteria-laden water, sand, and airborne particles. In 2023, parts of Imperial Beach were under a Boil Water Advisory for over four days due to the presence of E. coli in the drinking water; and

**WHEREAS**, contamination has damaged the local economy. Our community is dependent on coastal tourism to support hotel and hospitality jobs. Some businesses in the region have seen a significant decline due to beach closures. In addition, due to the Boil Water Advisory, businesses serving food and beverages had to close during and in the aftermath of the Advisory; and

**WHEREAS**, the crisis has negatively impacted the environment, with pollution causing significant habitat loss due to sedimentation, lack of tidal exchange, and low oxygen levels that are significantly impacting fish, shellfish, and other wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, the coastal communities of south San Diego County are dealing with an unprecedented crisis that cannot be addressed locally. This urgent situation demands coordinated State and Federal emergency action.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we request that Governor Newsom proclaim a State of Emergency in San Diego County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we urge Governor Newsom to request a Federal Emergency Declaration for San Diego County and that President Biden award all appropriate federal assistance; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we request that a copy of this Proclamation be forwarded to the offices of President Biden, Governor Newsom, and Congressman Vargas.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024 by the Governing Board of the South Bay Union School District of San Diego County, California by the following vote:

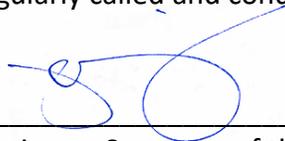
AYES:	Ellsworth, Leiker, Medina, and Quinones
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Lopez Eguino
ABSTENTION:	None

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO)

I, Jose Espinoza, Secretary of the Governing Board of the South Bay Union School District, County of San Diego, State of California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Proclamation duly adopted by said Board of Trustees at the regularly called and conducted meeting held on February 8, 2024.

February 9, 2024

Date



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Jose Espinoza, Secretary of the Board of Trustees