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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas

51st District, California

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May 27, 2014

Ms. Joann Lim
Executive Office
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108

Dear Ms. Lim:

I write to ask you to consider delaying the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, in order that a real-time prediction model for improvements in the ocean and near shore water monitoring in South San Diego may be presented to your board by Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

It is my understanding that the proposed model could significantly improve the current oceanographic knowledge of the region and serve as a learning tool. The implementation of a real-time prediction model will help improve monitoring efforts, plan for future changes in outfall capacity, and respond to potential spills or other events for the South San Diego ocean region, including the Tijuana River Estuary and the coastline from Point Loma to nearly Baja Malibu. This will ensure surface waters and water quality are protected for the constituents in the District.

This project will update and modernize the ocean monitoring programs for the United States International Boundary and Water Commission and the South Bay Regional Water Treatment Plant, positively affecting the South San Diego Bay and Shoreline by strengthening the ability of the discharger to determine South Bay Ocean Outfall plume behavior and other potential stressors. Once again, I respectfully ask you to consider delaying the adoption date, currently scheduled for June 26, 2014, in order to consider inclusion of a real-time prediction model for the NPDES tentative order. In regards to this matter, please provide the request full and fair consideration based on its merits and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Sincerely,

JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress

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SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD