



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



December 10, 2019

File ID: 19-0565

TITLE

JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA, ALONG WITH OTHER STATE AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS, RECOMMENDING PROJECT ALTERNATIVES AND FEDERAL ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE DETRIMENTAL TRANSBOUNDARY FLOWS OF WASTES IN THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

The City of Chula Vista and its co-stakeholder agencies, the County of San Diego, the City of Imperial Beach, the City of Coronado, the City of San Diego, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Unified Port of San Diego (together with the non-government entity, Surf Rider Foundation) have collaborated to identify a series of improvement projects that the entities believe will greatly reduce the flow of sewage and sediment into the Tijuana River Valley and the coastal waters of Imperial Beach and Coronado. The resolution is intended to be adopted by each agency creating a uniformed approach to identifying the projects for which approval and funding will be sought. An explicit uniform approach will help facilitate group interactions with the responsible federal agencies.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act State Guidelines; therefore, pursuant to State Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3) no environmental review is required.

DISCUSSION

The City of Chula Vista and its co-stakeholder agencies, the County of San Diego, the City of Imperial Beach, the City of Coronado, the City of San Diego, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Unified Port of San Diego (together with the non-government entity, Surf Rider Foundation), have collaborated to identify a series of improvement projects that the entities believe will greatly reduce the flow of sewage and sediment into the Tijuana River Valley and the coastal waters of San Diego County. The attached Resolution identifies these projects. This Resolution will be presented to the government body of each entity in the coming weeks to ensure all entities are working toward the same goal allowing the federal government to have a clear indication of which projects the local governments support.

On numerous occasions, representatives of federal agencies have indicated that it is often unclear which projects are supported because each agency is asking for different solutions and projects. Not having a clear uniform list

of supported projects has diminished the likelihood of federal funding. Accordingly, it has been suggested that the entities collaborate to produce a list of projects that can be supported by all parties. To that end, the County of San Diego commissioned a study through funding from Senate Bill 507 to examine all the existing studies and potential projects. The local government agencies met and identified the projects that would result in the lowest amount of pollution entering the River Valley and identified the projects that are included in the proposed Resolution. These projects were recently presented to White House officials, as well as representatives from the International Water and Boundary Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. While other options continue to be proposed and various groups continue to suggest other alternatives, the local government agencies have determined after many years of studies, environmental assessments, and engineering studies that the projects identified are likely to significantly reduce the transboundary flows to an average of 12 days per year and have the highest likelihood for success.

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution, with the attached list of desired projects, in order to facilitate the efforts by all parties to communicate a unified front to the relevant federal agencies and to Congress. A unified list of desired and necessary projects is expected to increase the groups' chances of receiving federal funding for such projects.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

None identified.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

There is no ongoing fiscal impact associated with this action.

ATTACHMENTS

1. NOA Matrix

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