



April 14th, 2025

The Honorable Robert Rivas
 Speaker of the State Assembly
 California State Capitol
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Speaker Rivas:

As leaders of environmental and environmental justice organizations from San Diego County and throughout the State of California, we write to support Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre for re-appointment to the California Coastal Commission's San Diego District seat.

Our support of Mayor Aguirre is based on her widely respected leadership on coastal and housing issues affecting the State of California.

In San Diego County specifically, Paloma is held in high regard for her work to resolve the persistent border sewage problem that is affecting the Tijuana River Valley and some of the region's most vulnerable people. The resulting pollution posed by the continual dumping of billions of gallons of raw sewage into the Tijuana River has closed Southern California beaches for years at a time and sickened residents and visitors alike whose exposure to untreated sewage has led to a range of water and air-borne diseases including gastrointestinal infections, hepatitis, and respiratory illnesses. Undeterred by those who failed to take corrective action in the past, Aguirre has fought tirelessly to demand that the Federal government address the problem by declaring a State of Emergency and designating the affected area as a SuperFund site.

In addition, Aguirre is well-qualified for her role on the Commission. After returning to the US from Mexico where she was raised, Aguirre put herself through college, graduated from the University of San Diego (USD) with a B.A. in Psychology, obtained a certificate in Nonprofit Management from Brandman University and completed a Master of Advanced Studies in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in 2015.

Demonstrating an early commitment to social justice, Aguirre worked as a community organizer in South San Diego helping low-income families address immigration, foreclosure, and predatory lending issues. She then joined WILDCOAST, a coastal and marine conservation non-profit where she worked for over 10 years before running for elective office.

Aguirre has extensive state and national experience working on housing, conservation policy and other complex public health and safety issues and has brought that experience to her current role on the Coastal Commission, where she has shown thoughtfulness on all issues and deliberate dedication to environmental justice.

Mayor Aguirre has proven herself to be a dedicated representative for all people in California who interact with the coast, and we hope that she will be allowed to continue her contributions to the state through her service on the Coastal Commission.

Thank you for your consideration, we urge you to re-appoint Paloma Aguirre to the San Diego District seat.

Sincerely,

Susan Jordan
Founder & Executive Director
California Coastal Protection Network

Jennifer Savage
California Policy Associate Director
Surfrider Foundation

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš
Founder / Executive Director
Azul

Sean Bothwell
Executive Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance

Sandy Aylesworth
Pacific Initiative Director
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Molly Culton
Chapter Organizing Manager
Sierra Club

Richard Charter, Senior Fellow
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Pam Heatherington
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Phillip Musegaas
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Adriana Dominique Guerrero-Nardone,
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Dan Silver
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Endangered Habitats League

Ben McCue
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Ashley Eagle-Gibbs
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Environmental Action Committee of West
Marin

Jen Kalt
Executive Director
Humboldt Waterkeeper

Katie Thompson
Executive Director
Save Our Shores

Michael Wellborn
President
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks

Patty Cleary
Co-Executive Director
Smith River Alliance

Jack Eidt
Co-Founder
SoCal 350 Climate Action

Kristen Northrop
Policy Advocate
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation

Josefina Barrantes
EPIC (Environmental Protection
Information Center)
30x30 Coordinator / Del Norte Advocate

Ramon Chairez
Director of Education & Environmental
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Un Mar De Colores

Anupa Asokan
Founder and Executive Director
Fish On

Kyla Langen- founder, co-director
Nic Brisebois- co founder, co-director
Queer Surf

Penny Elia, Coastal Activist