

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**District 8 City Council Candidate Rafael Perez Launches Webpage on Regional Authority Proposal for Tijuana River Valley Crisis**

***New page at [rafaperez.net/tijuanariver](http://rafaperez.net/tijuanariver) highlights a path toward meaningful progress on a public health emergency impacting South Bay families every day***

San Ysidro, CA — San Diego City Council District 8 candidate **Rafael Perez** has launched a new webpage, [rafaperez.net/tijuanariver](http://rafaperez.net/tijuanariver), to educate the public about a proposed regional authority to better coordinate the response to the Tijuana River Valley crisis.

As Perez has spent time speaking with residents in communities impacted by the Tijuana River Valley emergency, he says he has come away with a deeper understanding of just how severe and long-running the crisis has become. Families in the South Bay have been forced to live with polluted air, contaminated water, beach closures, and daily threats to public health, while government agencies continue to respond in a fragmented and piecemeal way.

*“For decades, this crisis has been treated as someone else’s problem,” said Perez. “But for the people living with it every day, it is not abstract. It is a real public health emergency affecting their quality of life, their neighborhoods, and their health.”*

Perez said that after researching other environmental disasters and speaking with experts, he became convinced that a **Joint Powers Authority-style regional entity** is one of the strongest paths forward. The concept would not replace existing federal, binational, or treaty responsibilities. Instead, it would create the missing structure needed to bring agencies to one table, align priorities, coordinate projects, track results, and create real accountability for delivery.

Worsening infrastructure in Mexico, repeated sewage spills, fragmented projects, and overlapping jurisdiction have left the region stuck in a cycle of reaction instead of resolution. Too many entities have a piece of the problem, but no single body is responsible for driving a unified response.

*“A regional authority gives us a way to match the scale of the emergency with the scale of the response,” Perez said. “If we are serious about calling this a public health emergency, then we need a structure that treats it like one.”*

According to Perez, residents who have reviewed the concept have responded with strong support. Some, he said, have been dealing with this issue for more than 40 years and told him it is the best plan they have heard for finally creating the coordination and urgency needed to make real progress.

The new webpage explains the case for a regional authority, how it could work, how it could fit alongside existing agencies and treaty processes, and why stronger coordination is essential to moving from scattered efforts to sustained action.

Perez said the goal is to help residents, stakeholders, and decision-makers better understand an opportunity to build a more accountable and effective response to one of the region’s most serious ongoing environmental health crises.

To learn more, visit [rafaperez.net/tijuanariver](http://rafaperez.net/tijuanariver).

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