

Introduced by Senator Hueso

February 21, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 90—Relative to the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 90, as introduced, Hueso. Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team.

This measure would declare the Legislature’s intent to work with the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team to take various actions to protect and preserve the Tijuana River Valley, to encourage collaboration with the team to protect and enhance our natural resources through improved management of sediment and trash, flood control, ecosystem management, and recreation and education, and to promote bilateral ties with Mexico that will be beneficial to the enhancement of one of California’s most resilient ecosystems.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Originating in Mexico, the Tijuana River crosses
- 2 the international boundary into the United States near San Ysidro,
- 3 California, then flows westerly to discharge into the Pacific Ocean
- 4 at about 1.5 miles north of the Mexican border where it forms the
- 5 Tijuana River Estuary, partly located in the State of California and
- 6 partly in Mexico; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Parts of the Tijuana River Estuary are protected
- 8 by the Department of Parks and Recreation as the Border Field
- 9 State Park; and
- 10 WHEREAS, The Tijuana River Estuary is also protected by the
- 11 United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and is designated as a

1 “Wetland of International Importance” through the United Nations
2 Ramsar Convention Wetlands; and

3 WHEREAS, The Tijuana River Estuary is one of only two
4 coastal estuaries in southern California large enough, and
5 unimpeded by development, to be resilient to climate change. It
6 is also the only coastal lagoon in southern California that is
7 primarily under public ownership and not bisected by roads and
8 railroads, contributing to its economic resiliency and value; and

9 WHEREAS, The City of San Diego declared the existence of
10 a state of emergency related to the potential for severe flooding in
11 the Tijuana River Valley, posing a possibility of peril to persons
12 or property; and

13 WHEREAS, Decades of scientific research prove that sediment,
14 trash, and high concentrations of other urban, agricultural, and
15 industrial pollutants carried in stormwater runoff flowing into
16 California from Mexico currently threaten the Tijuana River
17 Valley’s environmental health and viability; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition to the environmental impact caused by
19 the transport and deposition of trash and sediment, the watershed
20 is in danger of losing valuable ecological, recreational, and
21 economic resources; and

22 WHEREAS, The only way to effectively restore and protect
23 environmental and human health issues in the Tijuana River Valley
24 is to address transboundary flows of trash and sediment at the
25 source, requiring binational cooperation; and

26 WHEREAS, The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team is a
27 collaboration of more than 30 federal, state, and local agencies
28 and other interested parties from both sides of the border focused
29 on addressing sediment, trash, and associated environmental issues
30 through the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy; and

31 WHEREAS, The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy
32 emphasizes binational collaboration on wastewater improvements,
33 trash control, sediment and flood control, and ecosystem
34 restoration; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
36 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature on behalf of the people
37 of the State of California, declare their commitment to work with
38 the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team to protect the valley’s
39 diverse and unique ecological, recreational, cultural, and

1 educational opportunities and preserve this natural jewel located
2 within a binational metropolitan area; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage
4 collaboration with the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team to do
5 both of the following:

6 (a) To protect and enhance our natural resources through
7 improved management of sediment and trash, flood control,
8 ecosystem management, and recreation and education.

9 (b) To promote bilateral ties that will be beneficial to the
10 enhancement of one of California's most resilient ecosystems; and
11 be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
13 this resolution to the Secretary for Environmental Protection and
14 to the author for appropriate distribution.