



Serving the cities of:
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Poway
Santee

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San Diego communities of:*
Allied Gardens
Carmel Mountain Ranch
Del Cerro
Grantville
Kearny Mesa
MCAS Miramar
Miramar Ranch
Rancho Bernardo
Sabre Springs
San Carlos
San Pasqual Valley
Scripps Ranch
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Stonebridge
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*Serving the
County communities of:*
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Barrett
Blossom Valley
Bostonia
Boulevard
Campo
Crest
Cuyamaca
Dehesa
Del Dios
Descanso
Dulzura
Eucalyptus Hills
Fernbrook
Flinn Springs
Granite Hills
Guatay
Harbison Canyon
Jacumba
Jamul
Johnstown
Julian
Lake Hodges
Lake Morena
Lakeside
Morena Village
Mount Laguna
Pine Hills
Pine Valley
Potrero
Ramona
San Diego Country Estates
San Pasqual
Santa Fe Valley
Tecate
Tierra del Sol
Winter Gardens
Wynola

*Serving the tribal
governments of:*
Barona
Campo
Capitan Grande
Ewiiapaayp
Inaja-Cosmit
Jamul Indian Village
La Posta
Manzanita
Sycuan
Viejas

JOEL ANDERSON

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Request to Close the International Border to Address the Humanitarian Crisis

Dear President Biden,

San Diego is a diverse border community that has historically welcomed newcomers from all over the world, many making their home in San Diego, and many moving on to a final destination elsewhere in the U.S. In the last 10 years, the number of migrants crossing our land border into San Diego has fluctuated with periods of time where it was orderly, and episodes where numbers would temporarily spike and overwhelm our network of community-based organizations (CBOs). Despite these challenges, San Diego's CBOs have been able to successfully piece together funding from the state & federal government along with philanthropic dollars to meet the need. Despite the disruption and strain they caused our local communities, street-releases of migrants by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (USCBP) were infrequent until last year thanks to the infrastructure created by our CBOs.

As you are well aware, the May 11, 2023 lifting of Title 42 restrictions on immigration has overwhelmed our CBOs, and created an unprecedented situation at San Diego's border and our major transit stations, including the San Diego International Airport. For over a year, we have been calling on you and our congressional delegation to enact meaningful immigration reform and provide our region with the necessary resources to humanely welcome asylum-seeking migrants in our region. Sadly, we are nowhere closer today than we were in December 2022, and the County's \$6 million in stop gap funding to mitigate your thousands of daily street releases is rapidly dwindling.

I urge you to take immediate executive action to stop a humanitarian crisis from unfolding on our streets. This could involve actions to remove policies that prevent detention of individuals who cross the U.S.-Mexico border illegally, ordering the Department of Homeland Security to reinstitute the Remain in Mexico policy, negotiating asylum cooperative agreements, ending parole abuses, using expedited removal, or implementing other security measures. We cannot allow federally sponsored homelessness of tens of thousands of people to crush our struggling service provider network.

We were hopeful that the recent negotiations in Washington would result in the enactment of meaningful immigration reform, or at a minimum, funding for local border communities like ours to cope with the thousands of daily street releases of migrants by USCBP. Those hopes have not been fulfilled, and we are now at the edge of a cliff facing an unprecedented crisis on our streets should the status quo continue. The County of San Diego, our local resettlement partners, and other non-governmental organizations have been forced to shoulder the burden of managing over 90,000 migrants processed and released into San Diego by USCBP since September 2023. We have

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The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

February 15, 2024

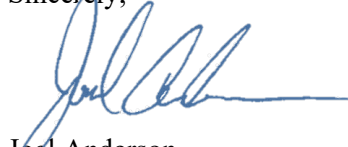
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expended significant local resources despite the fact that immigration is fundamentally a federal responsibility, and we are rapidly reaching a breaking point.

Until there is a serious effort to enact policy to create a rational migration system at our land border, the only appropriate recourse to stop federally sponsored homelessness and immediately close the U.S./Mexico land border. This current practice is untenable, and my constituents should not have to bear the burden of failed federal policy.

Again, I strongly urge you to take immediate steps to close the international border and to take the action necessary to address this ongoing humanitarian crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joel Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joel Anderson
Supervisor, Second District