

» CORONADO NEWS INVESTIGATION: THE TIJUANA SEWAGE CRISIS

Promises, Promises

Broken promises by U.S. and Mexico keep millions of gallons of raw sewage flowing into Pacific Ocean, Coronado, other beaches



Raw sewage flows from a Tijuana canal directly into the Pacific Ocean. Photo by Dennis Wagner.

By DENNIS WAGNER,
CRAIG HARRIS, JULIETA SOTO
and MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

TIJUANA, Mexico

In the residential hills of Mexico's sixth-largest city, a place known as Anexa Miramar stands out — and not in a good way.

Despite a glorious view of the Pacific Ocean and coastline all the way to Coronado Shores, a nearby street leading into a barrio has the stench of sewage emanating from a gray torrent pouring out of a manhole and gushing down the middle of a street during a late January morning.

The sewer water spills into a trash-filled arroyo, makes its way to the Tijuana River and empties into the ocean.

It'll take a few days, but human waste and pathogens likely will ride ocean currents to the pristine beach at Coronado, where effluent meets the affluent.

The phenomenon occurs with mind-boggling frequency, especially every time it rains, and just last week a ruptured Mexico pipeline caused millions of gallons of raw sewage to gush into San Diego County.

Yet, the quandary is not new.

Alarm bells have gone off from the United States and Mexican governments since at least 1934, when the two sides agreed to cooperate over the "Tijuana River sewage problem," records show.

» Continued on page 12

"It's disgusting water."

Brian Anderson, Coronado resident

"It's a persistent problem. We end up the victims, and we are not causing it."

Dave Gillingham, Coronado resident

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Equity Conference still a hot-button issue at CUSD board meeting

By JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Equity training, a block schedule for Coronado High school students, and a new contract for teachers were the key issues at the Coronado School Board's monthly meeting on Thursday.

The meeting drew a handful of critics who addressed the board about the district's decision to send 25 educators to an equity conference that cost \$11,500. The district, which has battled racial issues the past two years, on Wednesday issued a two-page press release justifying the expense and training.

However, two people took aim at the board during public comment.

One person mirrored last month's request that the district disclose who the 25 CUSD employees were who attended an Equity Conference last month, and whether the information they learned is already implemented into classrooms.

Ann Sonne said the district has "refused to give the public a list of the staff that attended this conference."

» Continued on page 11

MOUNTAINEER BAILEY

Coronado Mayor Richard Bailey aiming to scale Mount Everest

By MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News



Coronado Mayor Richard Bailey stands with Mt. Aconcagua in the background. Photo courtesy of Richard Bailey.

There were no signs of human life on this mountain, except for two slow steams of breath appearing and vanishing, appearing and vanishing, appearing and vanishing, leaving the mountain feeling desolate and isolated for a few moments until another pair of breaths arrived.

Storm clouds formed at a distance, continuously rolling in and out. At an altitude of just over 19,000 feet, these clouds were common. The odd quietness of having the whole summit to the two mountaineers was broken by the crackling of the snow beneath their feet and the hissing of the ice as they trudged their way up the slope.

Knee deep in ice and fresh snow, and tied to his guide 30 feet in front of him, Coronado Mayor Richard Bailey felt the weight of survival on his mind. His eyes dimmed and his pupils widened as the light faded from the sky, trying to increase his visibility as much as he could. His headlamp helped, and good thing it did because just ahead was yet another ledge.

» Continued on page 10

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Opinion
Local News

4
6-13

Navy
Sports

14-15
17-19

Life on the Island

20-22