



GARCIA
2011

Neil Allen Garcia

A high-stakes conflict over sewage system output

Re: "Ruling a shocker/S.D. may face big upgrade of sewage system" (A-1, April 9):

The California Coastal Commission should be applauded for standing up for the environment.

Obviously, the Bush administration, which doesn't give a squat about the environment, has prevented the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from enforcing the Clean Water Act. If the Regional Water Quality Board doesn't step in to enforce it, it is up to the only independent panel in the state to improve the quality of our coastal waters. We should thank our lucky stars that the Coastal Commission is in fact independent.

I really find it completely implausible that 175 million gallons a day, or 63.9 billion gallons a year, of partially treated sewage doesn't adversely affect the environment.

TODD T. CARDIFF
San Diego

achieve the 2010 requirements.

Fortunately for local ratepayers, EPA helped pay for a large portion of these facilities. And, in 1997, my agency (the Border Environment Cooperation Commission) certified the southern plant at the Mexican border, so it qualified for a \$17 million EPA grant, out of a total \$100 million cost.

■ Expand its current ocean monitoring program to deeper ranges, hire independent monitors and include the latest detection methods that track viruses as well as E.coli bacteria.

Problems in Orange County suggest that sewage does *not* stay trapped at depths in the ocean as once believed. Recent studies by researchers from the University of California at Irvine and Scripps Institution of Oceanography determined that sewage from Orange County's outfall, 4.52 miles offshore, was coming back toward the land.

Today, the question is: Is anyone in