



International Boundary and Water Commission

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U.S. AND MEXICAN OFFICIALS TOUR CIUDAD JUAREZ SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Officials from the United States and Mexico on February 22 toured wastewater infrastructure in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua to see recent improvements firsthand. The tour was organized by the local water utility, the Junta Municipal de Agua y Saneamiento de Ciudad Juarez (JMAS), and coordinated through the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC).

In 2011, the JMAS upgraded its North and South Wastewater Treatment Plants to secondary biological treatment and doubled the capacity of the South Wastewater Treatment Plant. The JMAS also constructed a 6-mile (9.66 km) long pipeline to transfer sludge from the North Wastewater Treatment Plant to the South Wastewater Treatment Plant, where it is treated using anaerobic digestion. Additionally, in 2010, the JMAS completed the Anapra Wastewater Treatment Plant in the western part of the municipality. The improvements were undertaken at a cost of approximately US\$58 million (700 million pesos).

During the tour, participants visited the Anapra and North Wastewater Treatment Plants. U.S. participants included Commissioner Edward Drusina of the International Boundary and Water Commission, El Paso Mayor John Cook, Carlos Rincon with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Border Program Outreach Office in El Paso, Peter Sloan from the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, and other representatives from those agencies. Mexican participants included Commissioner Roberto Salmon of the International Boundary and Water Commission, JMAS President Nora Yu, and other officials from both agencies. Maria Elena Giner, General Manager of the binational Border Environment Cooperation Commission, also participated.

During the tour JMAS officials provided information about the upgrades to their sanitation infrastructure, including improvements that reduce odors to the benefit of residents on both sides of the border and improve the quality of effluent that is reused for irrigation or discharged into the Rio Grande.

"The improvements we saw at the wastewater treatment plants in Ciudad Juarez are significant," said U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina. "These upgrades improve the environment and the quality of life for residents in both El Paso and Ciudad Juarez."

Mexican Commissioner Roberto Salmon expressed his support for the improvements undertaken by the JMAS and reiterated the commitment of the Mexican Section of the IBWC to continue working

with the JMAS to improve sanitation conditions in Ciudad Juarez to benefit the best interests of both countries.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries and settling differences that arise in their application. Under the 1944 Water Treaty, the Commission has the authority to address border sanitation problems.

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