USIBWC Update Regarding the Settlement Agreement and efforts under the USMCA Agreement

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Commissioner
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South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant

• Began operation in 1997 as an advanced primary treatment plant
  – Upgraded to secondary treatment in 2011
• Average treatment capacity: 25 million gallons/day
  – Treats wastewater from Tijuana, Baja California
• Owner- USIBWC
• Operator- Veolia
Events leading to litigation
Settlement Agreement

- City of Imperial Beach, et al. v. International Boundary and Water Commission, United States Section, et al., No 3:18-cv-00457-JM-JLB
- Surfrider Foundation v. The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States Section, No. 3:18-cv-01621-JM-JLB
- People of the State of California ex rel. the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, et al., v. International Boundary and Water Commission, United States Section, No. 3:18-cv-02050-JM-JLB

- Plaintiffs- Regional Board, State Lands Commission, Surfrider Foundation, City of Imperial Beach, City of Chula Vista, City of San Diego, San Diego Unified Port District
Key Elements of the Agreement

• Tijuana River Channel Temporary Berm
  – Currently there is a berm in Mexico
  – Add a second berm in Mexico in case flows breach the first berm
  – During dry season, USIBWC to determine if a berm in the U.S. is needed to further protect against transboundary flows to include pumping back to Mexico
Canyon Collector Operations

• Daily inspection
  – Clean inlet, log report

• Sandbags
  – Continue to stack to increase diversion

• Wet Weather Events
  – Clear debris after events

• Equipment
  – Contain and recover dry weather flows

• Catch basin
  – Install to collect WQ samples

• Trash boom at Stewart’s Drain
  – Assess the feasibility at this location
Communications, Planning, and Reporting

- **Inspection Reports**
  - Incorporate trash buildup in Mexico

- **Communications Protocol**
  - Establish protocol for notifying CBP and CESPT of trash build-up in areas upstream of the canyon collectors

- **Notification**
  - Notification via Twitter of transboundary events within 8 hours

- **Spill & Transboundary Flow Reports**
  - Integrate actions taken and equipment used to address dry weather events in river and canyons

- **Citizen’s Forums**
  - Expand the scope of the meetings to include updates on pollution control efforts in the Tijuana River FCP

- **Transboundary Flow Investigations**
  - Coordinate with MxIBWC to participate and report on inspection of non-stormwater transboundary flows

- **Stewart’s Drain Flow Minimization Plan**
  - Develop a plan to reduce the frequency and volume of flows at Stewart’s Drain
Water Quality Monitoring

Minute 320 Binational Core Group pursue the following:

• **Baseline Assessment**
  – Monitor and assess existing conditions, pre-USMCA project implementation

• **Performance Assessment**
  – Quarterly assessments to evaluate improvements after projects are implemented

• **Additional water quality monitoring**
  – Identify key issues for future assessment
Regular removal of material from Flood Control Channel

Within 6 months, USIBWC will provide estimates of the cost to remove sediment and trash at specific, regular intervals and utilize the report to seek funding.

Extraordinary Deferred Maintenance for Sediment removal- $83M

Routine channel maintenance- $5M
IMPORTANT MILESTONES

• United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)- 2020
  – United States, EPA as lead agency, began to implement strategy to address Tijuana River transboundary water quality issues
  – SBIWTP expansion is considered a key project to address sanitation concerns in Tijuana

• Mexico Gran Vision for border cities- 2020
  – Mexican federal agency study to evaluate water/wastewater infrastructure along the US/Mex border
  – Separate reports were prepared for each major city, includes assessment of Tijuana infrastructure
International Boundary and Water Commission
United States Section

Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution
Potential Sequence of Major Projects

Step 1
- Expand ITP

Step 2 (In Any Order)
- Convey Canyon Flows to ITP
- Build U.S.-Side Advanced Primary Treatment Plant

Step 3
- Build U.S.-Side River Diversion

Independent Projects (May Occur Concurrently with Steps 1-3)
- Sewer Collection System Repairs
- Reuse of Treated Effluent back to Rodriguez Dam
- New SAB Treatment Plant
- Reuse line from ITP to Mexico
- Canyon Regrading (project on hold- determined will not address pooling of wastewater at border)
- Trash Boom in Tijuana River
USMCA and Mexico Projects

• Executive Leadership Group provides direction

• Bi-weekly binational technical meetings led by EPA and CONAGUA
  – Discuss project details, schedules, and cost-sharing

EPA and CONAGUA Agreement
  • Projects included in the Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution
  • Include U.S. and Mexican projects
  • Elements to succeed (financial, timing, cost share)

IBWC Minute (Phase 1)
  - Expansion of SBIWTP
  - Includes associated infrastructure projects in Mexico
  - Government approval of projects

IBWC Minute (Phase 2, 3, ..)
  • Other projects that are ready
  • Implement as funding is available
Expanding the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant

Facility Planning
- Pre-planning needed for plant evaluation and expansion
- Expected to begin later in 2022

Design
- Once Agreements and PEIS are completed
- Target- 2023

Construction
- After Design completion
- Target- 2024
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