



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

March 12, 2025

Dear Stakeholders:

Here is the latest update regarding our monitoring of Mexico's International Collector project:

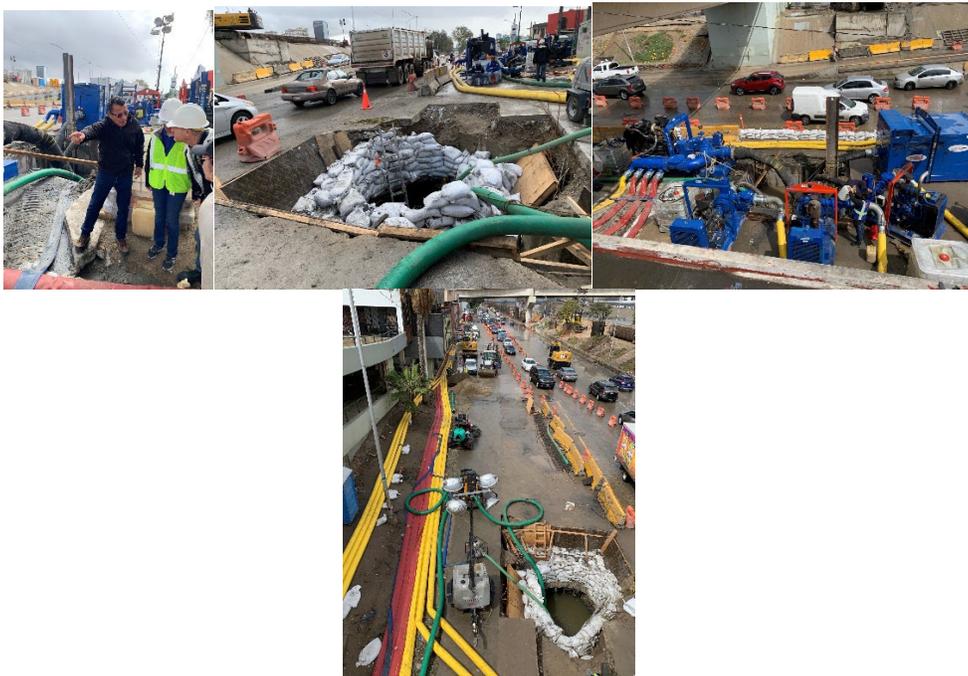
A team of USIBWC, U.S. Consulate, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) technical experts visited the work site in Tijuana this morning (Wednesday) and were briefed by Mexican officials.

The bypass is operational and managing flows.

Additional rainfall is expected tomorrow and Mexico is deploying measures to contain the increased flows and convey them into the system, including placing sandbags to direct flows.

Once the water level in the International Collector drops, Tijuana's public service commission (CESPT) will continue to clear sediment, dry the line, and resume repairs.

In preparation for upcoming heavy rain, CESPT will pump wastewater along with stormwater to Mexican Pump Station (PB-1). These flows will be directed to the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) and the San Antonio de los Buenos treatment plant.



Photos: Courtesy USIBWC

With the rain, a 427-foot segment of the Sanchez Taboada collector collapsed. CESPT plans to do emergency repairs on this collector as soon as the rain stops.

This collapse will result in a discharge of approximately 3.4 MGD to the Tijuana River for approximately six weeks.

We will provide notifications and updates once this repair is underway.

Mexico is still searching for the source of a previously unknown line sending unexpected wastewater flows into the system. They sent a worker into the storm drain next to the Tijuana River with special breathing equipment to try to determine the source.

SBIWTP is doing well. We have been receiving normal flow during the rain, with current influent flow of 23 MGD. We had an average daily flow of 24.46 MGD yesterday.

No transboundary flow has been reported at Stewart's Drain.

CESPT's deputy director said they expected to complete Phase 1 of the project about two weeks from next Monday, barring any unexpected complications. However, they cautioned that with the rain, other contingencies could occur that would affect the schedule.

The International Collector project includes a bypass, which USIBWC, EPA, and the U.S. Department of State pushed for in order to prevent the discharge of approximately 25-30 million gallons per day of wastewater into the Tijuana River. This should prevent more than half a billion gallons of wastewater from reaching the river by the time the project is finished.

A team of binational technical experts will continue to have daily update meetings and closely monitor the project's progress.

(Our X site is a good place to check for updates: <https://x.com/usibwc>)

Warm regards,

Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E.
Commissioner (U.S. Section)
International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico
United States Section