



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

March 14, 2025

Dear Stakeholders:

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

I'm glad to report Mexico has been able to keep additional flows from the International Collector installation out of the Tijuana River during the heavy rainfall.

At the same time, we are working closely with them to ensure adequate flows arrive at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) to maintain our biological treatment process.

Mexico continues to search for the source of the flows to the old International Collector. They assure us they have developed a contingency plan to divert these flows during the rehabilitation project.

Mexico is waiting for a break in the rains so they can repair the Sanchez Taboada collector. This collapsed pipeline will result in a discharge of approximately 3.4 million gallons per day (MGD) to the Tijuana River for approximately six weeks.

The USIBWC and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continue to hold daily calls with Mexico to get updates about the International Collector project.

Fractures and leaks in the aging International Collector pipeline system have contributed to Tijuana's transboundary flows.

The ongoing rehabilitation project includes relining and replacing sections of pipe, increasing the reliability of the International Collector while reducing leaks.

Initially, the work was to be completed in one phase, which would have sent approximately 25-30 MGD of wastewater into the Tijuana River over the course of about three to four weeks.

Mexico agreed to change plans after USIBWC, EPA, and the U.S. Department of State urged that country to implement a bypass solution while final connections were made. This should prevent more than half a billion gallons of wastewater from reaching the river by the time the project is finished.

The new International Collector will have the capacity to carry up to 60 MGD of wastewater to SBIWTP and the San Antonio de los Buenos plant, bringing more resiliency to the sewage infrastructure in Tijuana and reducing transboundary flows.

(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