



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

March 19, 2025

Dear Stakeholders:

The USIBWC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) participated in a virtual binational meeting with Mexico last night (Tuesday) and received the following update:

Mexico continues to keep additional flows from the International Collector installation out of the Tijuana River. They are working closely with USIBWC to ensure sufficient flows arrive at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) to maintain our biological treatment process.

USIBWC and EPA continue to closely monitor Mexico's progress through daily meetings and periodic site visits.

The 45-year-old International Collector, which manages an average flow of 32 million gallons a day, has been prone to leaks that have caused transboundary flows. The lines in the system also have a problem with sediment building up in them.

Given the amount of flow conveyed by this line, any failures would be catastrophic for the region. Getting the new International Collector up and running as soon as possible is a crucial milestone and will bring more resiliency to the sewage infrastructure in Tijuana.

Mexico still is searching for the source of the flows to the old International Collector but has been unsuccessful. They have developed a contingency plan to divert these flows during the rehabilitation project by installing a diversion plate.

Once the diversion plate is installed, Mexico expects to complete Phase 1 in two weeks.

Phase 1 consists of work to complete the installation of the 1.6-mile new International Collector, which will provide reliability to wastewater flows to the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant and less risk of line breaks.

Phase 2 is to rehabilitate the section of the pipeline between Mexican junction box and pump station PB-1, which leads to Junction Box 1 at SBIWTP, and install gate valves for control of flow sent to the plant. This work is expected to take about eight days.

In preparation for the rehabilitation project, Tijuana's water utility has been cleaning out the sediment in the old International Collector so they can reline the pipeline.

(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
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