



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
UNITED STATES SECTION

March 9, 2025

Dear Stakeholders:

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is investigating the cause of the transboundary flow of wastewater mixed with heavy stormwater that has been entering the United States at the San Diego, Calif.-Tijuana, Baja Calif. international boundary since early this morning (Sunday).

The flow in the vicinity of Stewart's Drain, which leads to the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP), started at approximately 1:30 a.m. Sunday.

The volume of the flow exceeded the capacity of Stewart's Drain, resulting in transboundary flow.

The flow caused an accumulation of debris that blocked SBIWTP's Junction Box #1, resulting in minimal flows reaching the plant.

By about 2:30 p.m. PDT, flow was increasing at the plant and Stewart's Drain had returned to normal.

A team of experts from the USIBWC, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Department of State is engaging with Mexico to determine the cause of the excessive flow and whether it was related to Mexico's work on a new International Collector.

The USIBWC has requested a binational meeting with Mexico tonight and I will provide updates as information becomes available.

(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*