



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

April 10, 2025

Dear Stakeholders:

Based on my meeting today with the Mexican Section of the IBWC, I would like to provide the following update on the International Collector project:

- Mexico is trying to expedite the activation of its PBCILA lift station to remove as much of the wastewater in the Tijuana River as possible before it reaches the United States. The goal is to turn this station on by Sunday, but they are trying to move up the date and have borrowed one of our front-end loaders to remove sediment near PBCILA and speed up the work.
- As you may recall, Mexico started discharging approximately 5 million gallons a day (MGD) of wastewater into the river on Tuesday night. This is expected to continue until the completion of Phase 1. It's worth repeating that although this is bad news, it's not as bad as the 25 MGD that could have wound up in the river under other alternatives that had been considered.
- Mexico says the discharge is limited to peak hours (11 p.m.-3 a.m.), making the average daily impact about 3 MGD. There was no need to discharge Wednesday because they suspended the water supply to a portion of Tijuana for other projects.
- The completion of Phase 1 of this project is scheduled for April 17. We are negotiating the possibility of beginning Phase 2 on April 21, for operational purposes for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP).
- PBCILA will be turned off once Phase 2 begins and flow from the International Collector will go to the San Antonio de los Buenos wastewater treatment plant on the Mexican coast. Mexico is doing everything possible to mitigate the risk of any additional flow going into the Tijuana River.
- Flow to SBIWTP is expected to be stopped for about six days during Phase 2. We are working with Mexico and the plant's operator, Veolia North America, to plan for this process, including arrangements should the shut-off last longer.
- PBCILA is expected to be turned back on after Phase 2 is finished.
- Mexico continues to work 24/7 on this important project, which will replace a decades-old, leaking pipeline and reduce the risk of transboundary flows.
- We continue to receive daily briefings from Mexico.

- Since this project started in early March, the bypass system the USIBWC, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. State Department pushed for has kept more than 600 million gallons of wastewater from being sent to the river.
- 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

The following photos are courtesy of the Mexican Section of IBWC:

