



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

For Immediate Release  
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**TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ACHIEVES 100-DAY GOAL OF INCREASING SAN DIEGO  
PLANT CAPACITY**

One hundred days ago, the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the goal by today of increasing the capacity of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant by 10 million gallons per day.

Achieving this part of the 100 percent solution to the Tijuana River pollution crisis negotiated between the United States and Mexico so soon instead of the originally estimated two years would be a significant step toward reopening San Diego County beaches and reducing odors in the community.

As EPA announced earlier today, the plant has met the deadline and achieved the technical milestone of increasing its treatment capacity from 25 million gallons a day (MGD) to 35 MGD.

This was due to the hard work of USIBWC staff, contractors PCL Construction and Stantec, and the leadership of President Trump, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, and USIBWC Commissioner Chad McIntosh, P.E.

Operational testing and fine-tuning are underway.

“The Trump Administration committed to delivering an urgent and permanent 100 percent solution to the millions of people afflicted by this crisis, and that's exactly what they're going to get,” said Administrator Zeldin. “Just four months after I personally surveyed the environmental devastation in San Diego, seeing the polluted waterways, closed beaches, and smelling the foul air, we've delivered this critical expansion years ahead of schedule. Protecting human health and the environment is our first priority at EPA, and no American should have to worry if the air they breathe or the beaches they visit are safe.”

“The Trump Administration has made clear we will no longer tolerate Americans being exposed to Mexican sewage,” Commissioner McIntosh said. “Today's achievement is a key part of a durable, comprehensive solution to the Tijuana River pollution crisis. It comes about a month after Administrator Zeldin and I traveled to Mexico City where we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Barcena to address the decades-long Tijuana River sewage crisis. The President, EPA Administrator, Secretary of State Rubio, Ambassador Ron Johnson, and I are committed to finally ending this problem. We appreciate President Claudia Sheinbaum's partnership, cooperation, and commitment to clean up the Tijuana River Valley.”

Ambassador Johnson added: “This is yet another challenge facing both of our nations that we have worked together to resolve. And the people of Cali-Baja have seen the benefits of that work.”

The greater treatment capacity will decrease dry-weather Tijuana River sewage flows which have been responsible for beach closures and odors. This is a win for millions of Americans and Mexicans.

Expedited contracting and procurement, assembling top-notch engineering expertise, and using innovative design and construction techniques helped make this project a success.

The USIBWC is working on how to plan for accelerating the larger expansion of its plant to at least 50 MGD by December 31, 2027, the date by which other U.S. and Mexican projects to remediate the current sanitation problem and prepare for future growth will be completed.

An online dashboard tracking how the USIBWC is protecting Americans from exposure to Mexican sewage is available here: <https://www.ibwc.gov/10-mgd-incremental-increase-100-days/>

EPA press release: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-us-ibwc-announce-major-milestone-delivering-100-solution-tijuana-river-sewage>

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