



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

For Immediate Release
February 10, 2026

USIBWC Reports Transboundary Flow at Stewart's Drain

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) reports the following:

A pipeline used to bypass Junction Box 1 (JB-1) and send wastewater from Tijuana to the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant ruptured at approximately 5 a.m., on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

Although this sent flow into and through Stewart's Drain, where the rupture occurred, the rapid response of USIBWC and contactors Veolia and INBODE ensured no wastewater reached the Tijuana River channel.

The dry-weather transboundary flow stopped at 6:30 a.m.

The incident occurred while USIBWC was in the process of the final installation and connection of Junction JB-1, which was being rehabilitated.

During this operation, a bypass is required to send flows from Mexican Pump Station (PB-1) to Junction Box 2 (JB-2) to allow the work to be completed inside of JB-1.

USIBWC had placed backup pumps inside Stewart's Drain to capture potential flows, but the flow from the ruptured line and other transboundary flows into the collector overwhelmed the pumps.

Approximately 36,000 gallons passed the weir, just north of Stewart's Drain, but did not reach the Tijuana River channel.

USIBWC quickly turned on additional portable pumps at Stewart's Drain and deployed vacuum trucks to capture the flow.

The ruptured pipeline was repaired at approximately 9 a.m. The cleanup was completed at approximately 10 a.m. The total amount recovered is being calculated.

Cal OES was notified at 7:49 a.m. Cal OES control number is 26-0664.

There were no impacts to the treatment plant.

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