

Tijuana River Public Information Meeting

June 25, 2020



USMCA Implementation Strategy

Guiding Principles

- Comprehensive Solution for Tijuana River Watershed
 - Value Engineering
 - Environmental Review
- Expedited and Objective Process
 - Builds on existing work by federal, state, and local organizations
 - Utilizes proven mechanisms – EPA’s Border Water Infrastructure Program
- Transparent Engagement and Consultation
 - USMCA Public Entities
 - Expert Technical Consultations
 - Broad Stakeholder engagement

Value Engineering

Goal: Identify critical information to make project selection

Key Evaluation Criteria

- Effectiveness in reducing beach advisories & impacts on border patrol and Navy SEAL operations
- Environmental benefits & public health protection
- Source and type of pollution
- Time-frame to Construct
- O&M, Engineering and regulatory feasibility, Leveraging
- Other

Value Engineering (Cont.)

Builds on Previous Work

➤ Tijuana River Diversion Study

North American Development Bank screening-level analysis of project alternatives in both the United States and Mexico.

➤ Senate Bill (SB) 507 Needs & Opportunities Assessment

San Diego County's screening-level alternatives in the main Tijuana River channel, the Tijuana River watershed, and Canyon Drainages, within the United States.

➤ CONAGUA Priority Projects

CONAGUA priority projects in Mexico, in consultation with CILA and Tijuana's water utility (CESPT).

Range of Projects to Be Assessed

- New TJ River diversion & treatment in U.S.
- Expand existing TJ River diversion in Mexico and treat in U.S.
- Expand SBIWTP treatment capacity to reduce U.S. Impacts (via TJ River and Surf Discharge)
- Wastewater reuse in Mexico and at SBIWTP
- Infrastructure in U.S. to capture & remove trash and sediment
- Others

Projected Implementation Process

- Project feasibility & Environmental screening
- Project selection by EPA Administrator (with stakeholder input)
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Financial delivery method and cost-share determination (concurrent with NEPA process)
- Final Design
- Construction
- Operation and maintenance

Consultation and Engagement

Interagency Consultation Group: *Will provide input on overarching USMCA implementation*

USEPA

US IBWC

US Army Corps of Engineers

North American Development Bank

DOS – Consulate General of Tijuana

Customs and Border Protection

Navy

DOI/FWS

Commerce/NOAA

State of CA – EPA/Water Quality Board

State of CA – Natural Resources Agency

San Diego County

City of Coronado

City of Imperial Beach

City of Chula Vista

City of San Diego

- Will convene bi-monthly (begins in July)
- EPA will contact Organizations to get POCs

Consultation and Engagement (Cont.)

Technical Expert Consultation: *Focus on technical and engineering evaluation of proposed projects*

- EPA, EPA Contractor, and NADBank will work closely with technical experts on both sides of border to:
 - Develop timely, accurate, and objective information
 - Identify issues, solutions, and recommendations
 - Leverage existing data to avoid duplication and maximize efficiency
- Will convene at least monthly and report on progress
- EPA will engage with organizations to identify technical POCs

Consultation and Engagement (Cont.)

- Stakeholder Engagement
 - Regular public information webinars and meetings
 - Develop Platform(s) to share information

Next Steps

- Public Information Meeting (today)
- Finalize EPA Contract (July 2020)
- Interagency Consultation Group
 - Identify POCs
 - First meeting (July, 2020)
- Technical Expert engagement
 - Report on progress at Interagency and public meetings

QUESTIONS
&
COMMENTS
