Improving Water Quality in the Tijuana River Valley

Project #4: Shift Wastewater Treatment of Canyon Flows to U.S. (via Expanded ITP) to Reduce Flows to San Antonio de los Buenos

Overview

This project improves the conveyance of untreated wastewater from canyons to treatment plants. This is done by decommissioning the canyon pump stations in Mexico and constructing new pipelines to convey the untreated wastewater to the U.S. for treatment at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (ITP). This project must be done in conjunction with Project 3. This project will:

- Reduce threats to the U.S. Border Patrol posed by pooled wastewater by enhancing canyon collector structures.
- Reduce untreated transboundary flows in both the canyons and the coast.

Project at a Glance

Location of Operations	United States and Mexico
Entry Points Addressed	SAB Creek, Cross-Border Canyons
Targeted Pollutant(s)	Untreated Wastewater

Will this project increase public health and beach water quality?

This project will reduce impacts to the U.S. coast by capturing and treating wastewater from Tijuana that otherwise would be discharged to the Pacific Ocean without adequate treatment from the San Antonio de los Buenos Wastewater Treatment Plant (SABTP). EPA is assessing how effective the project will be in reducing beach closures.

Does this project improve work conditions for government activities?

This project is anticipated to reduce the pooling of untreated wastewater at canyon collectors during dry weather periods. This will reduce the amount of untreated wastewater that U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel are sometimes exposed to while performing their job duties. Expected improvements to U.S. Navy personnel training conditions are unquantifiable.

COST ESTIMATES	
Capital	$32M
Annual O&M[1]	$160K
40-year lifecycle	$37M

TRANSBOUNDARY TIJUANA RIVER IMPACT[2] (Annual Benefit)	
Flow day reduction	–
Flow rate reduction	–
Sewage reduction	–

SAB CREEK IMPACT (Annual Benefit)	
Flow rate reduction	18%
Sewage reduction[3]	25%

BEACH CLOSURE IMPACTS (Annual Benefit)	
Closure reduction[4]	13%

LEGEND

[1] O&M: Operations and maintenance
[2] No anticipated impacts to Tijuana River
[3] Estimates of sewage reduction are based on the reduction of BOD (biochemical oxygen demand), a standard surrogate for sewage
[4] Beach closure reduction estimates are based on Scripps Institution of Oceanography models

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