

Improving Water Quality in the Tijuana River Valley

Project #8: Upgrade SAB Wastewater Treatment Plant to Reduce Untreated Wastewater to Coast

Overview

This project includes improvements to wastewater treatment in Mexico to reduce the amount of untreated wastewater entering the ocean. By upgrading the San Antonio de los Buenos wastewater treatment plant (SABTP) to 40 MGD¹, sufficient treatment capacity for current flows will be created and untreated wastewater will be prevented from entering the ocean via the SAB Creek. Reduces amount of untreated wastewater that reaches U.S. beaches via ocean surf contamination.

Project at a Glance

Location of Operations	Mexico
Entry Points Addressed	SAB Creek
Targeted Pollutant(s)	Untreated Wastewater

Will this project increase public health and beach water quality?

This project may significantly improve the quality of wastewater discharges to the Pacific Ocean from SAB Creek. EPA is assessing how effective the project will be in reducing beach closures.

Does this project improve work conditions for government activities?

This project will reduce contaminated transboundary flows in the ocean that move north from Mexico to the U.S. and is expected to reduce health risks among Navy personnel who train along the beachfront near the U.S. Navy Base in San Diego, California. However, it would not resolve existing impacts to U.S. Border Patrol operations.

COST ESTIMATES

Capital	\$200M
Annual O&M ²	\$7.4M
40-year lifecycle	\$613M

TRANSBOUNDARY TIJUANA RIVER IMPACT³ (Annual Benefit)

Flow day reduction	—
Flow rate reduction	—
Sewage reduction	—

SAB CREEK IMPACT Annual Impact

Flow rate reduction	0%
Sewage reduction ⁴	97%

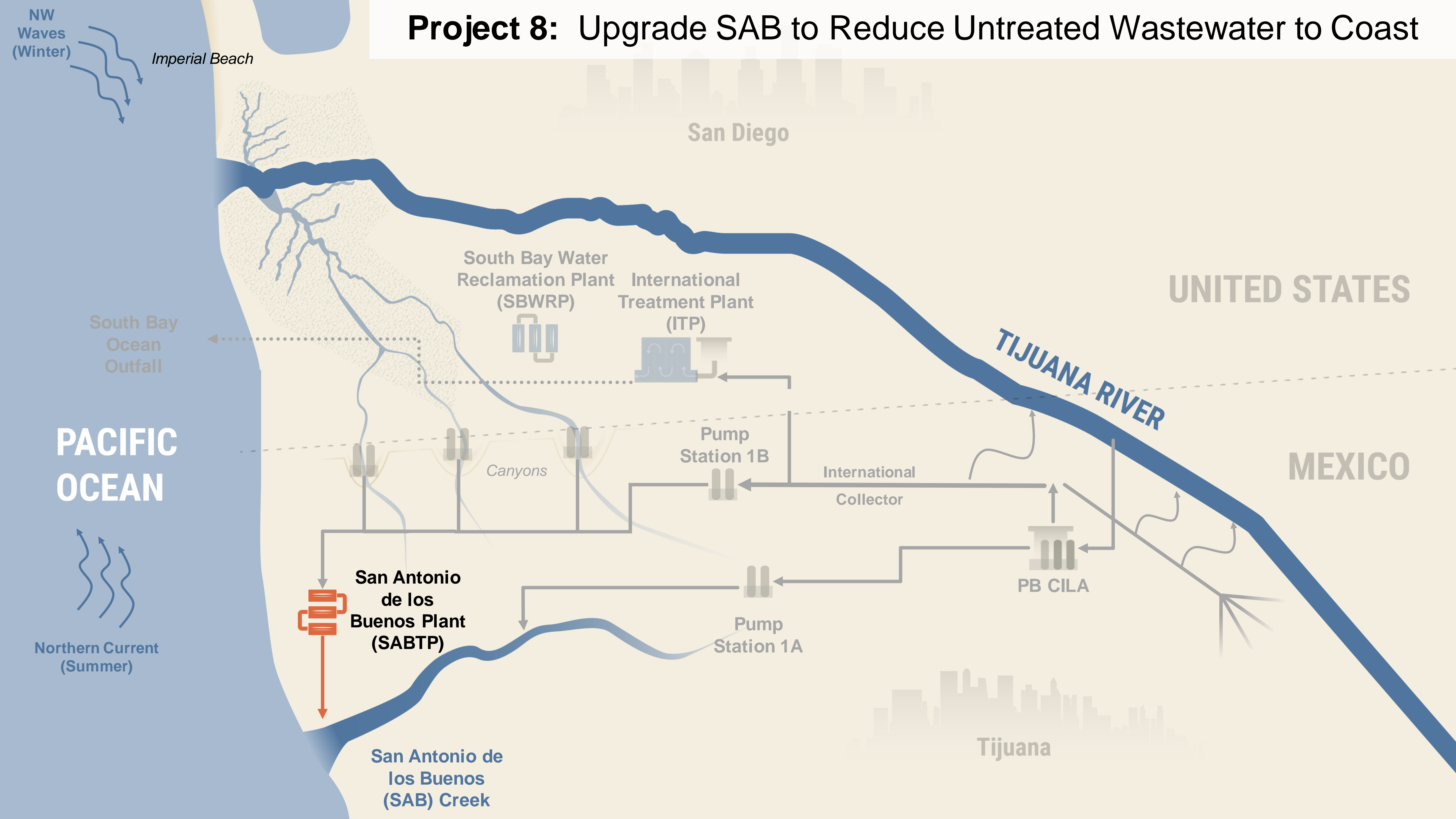
BEACH CLOSURE IMPACTS (Annual Benefit)

Closure reduction ⁵	60%
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LEGEND

- ¹ MGD: million gallons per day
- ² O&M: Operations and maintenance
- ³ No anticipated impacts to Tijuana River
- ⁴ Estimates of sewage reduction are based on the reduction of BOD (biochemical oxygen demand), a standard surrogate for sewage
- ⁵ Beach closure reduction estimates are based on Scripps Institution of Oceanography models

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NW Waves (Winter)

Imperial Beach

San Diego

South Bay Water Reclamation Plant (SBWRP)

International Treatment Plant (ITP)

UNITED STATES

South Bay Ocean Outfall

PACIFIC OCEAN

TIJUANA RIVER

MEXICO

Canyons

Pump Station 1B

International Collector

San Antonio de los Buenos Plant (SABTP)

PB CILA

Pump Station 1A

Northern Current (Summer)

San Antonio de los Buenos (SAB) Creek

Tijuana