

Improving Water Quality in the Tijuana River Valley

Project #9: Treat Wastewater from the International Collector at the SBWRP

Overview

This project includes improvements to convey untreated wastewater generated in Mexico to the South Bay Water Reclamation Plant (SBWRP) for treatment. The project also reduces the amount of untreated wastewater sent to the existing San Antonio de los Buenos wastewater treatment plant (SABTP) in Mexico. This project will:

- Use the SBWRP to treat 15 MGD¹ wastewater from Mexico and reduce flows to the SABTP.
- Result in speedier implementation and less construction.
- Include a new on-site solids processing facility is included in the cost estimates.

Project at a Glance

Location of Operations	United States
Entry Points Addressed	SAB Creek
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 would otherwise be discharged to the Pacific Ocean without adequate treatment from SABTP. This project is expected to enhance recreational opportunities.

Does this project improve work conditions for government activities?

This project 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 will not resolve existing impacts to U.S. Border Patrol operations and personnel, who are sometimes exposed to untreated wastewater while performing their job duties near border infrastructures.

COST ESTIMATES	
Capital	\$105M
Annual O&M ²	\$18M
40-year lifecycle	\$759M

TRANSBOUNDARY TIJUANA RIVER IMPACT ³ (Annual Benefit)	
Flow day reduction	—
Flow rate reduction	—
Sewage reduction	—

SAB CREEK IMPACT Annual Impact	
Flow rate reduction	26%
Sewage reduction ⁴	50%

BEACH CLOSURE IMPACTS (Annual Benefit)	
Closure reduction ⁵	32%

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	

