
USMCA Tijuana River Watershed

Eligible Public Entities Coordinating Group (EPECG)

November 8, 2021

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Pacific
(2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern)

Agenda

Objectives:

- Engage EPECG members on comprehensive solution to address transboundary pollution in San Diego/Tijuana.
- Announce recommended alternative for further NEPA evaluation.
- Review binational engagement and NEPA implementation strategy.

11:00 am **Welcome and Overview**

11:10 am **EPA Announcements**

11:20 am **Review Recommended Alternative**

EPA Implementation Strategy

11:40 am

- Binational Engagement
- NEPA
- Pending Items

11:55 am **Closing Remarks**



USMCA Tijuana River Watershed

EPECG Meeting

Virtual Meeting: November 8th, 2021

Federal, State, and Local Stakeholder Engagement Eligible Public Entities Coordinating Group

- US Army Corps of Engineers
 - North American Development Bank
 - DOS – Consulate General of Tijuana
 - US Customs & Border Protection
 - US Navy
 - US DOI/FWS
 - US International Boundary and Water Commission
 - US Department of Commerce/NOAA
 - State of CA – EPA
 - State of CA – Natural Resources Agency
 - San Diego County
 - San Diego Port Authority
 - San Diego Regional Board
 - City of Chula Vista
 - City of Coronado
 - City of Imperial Beach
 - City of San Diego
- ▶ **Congressional staff also participating**

Today's Agenda

- EPA Announcements
- Review Recommended Alternative
- EPA Implementation Strategy
 - Binational Engagement
 - NEPA
 - Pending Items
- Closing Remarks

Welcome & Overview

Andrew Sawyers & Tomás Torres

EPECG Co-Chairs

EPA Announcements

Andrew Sawyers

EPA HQ: Director, Office of Wastewater Management

EPECG Co-Chair

Review Recommended Alternative

Ami Cobb

EPA HQ: Environmental Engineer

Comprehensive Alternative (I-2)

Imperial Beach

San Diego

UNITED STATES

MEXICO

PACIFIC OCEAN

South Bay Ocean Outfall

Canyon Regrading

35 MGD Expansion International Treatment Plant (ITP)

60 MGD Advanced Primary Treatment Plant

Trash Booms

TIJUANA RIVER

Future Reuse

International Collector

PB CILA

Playas

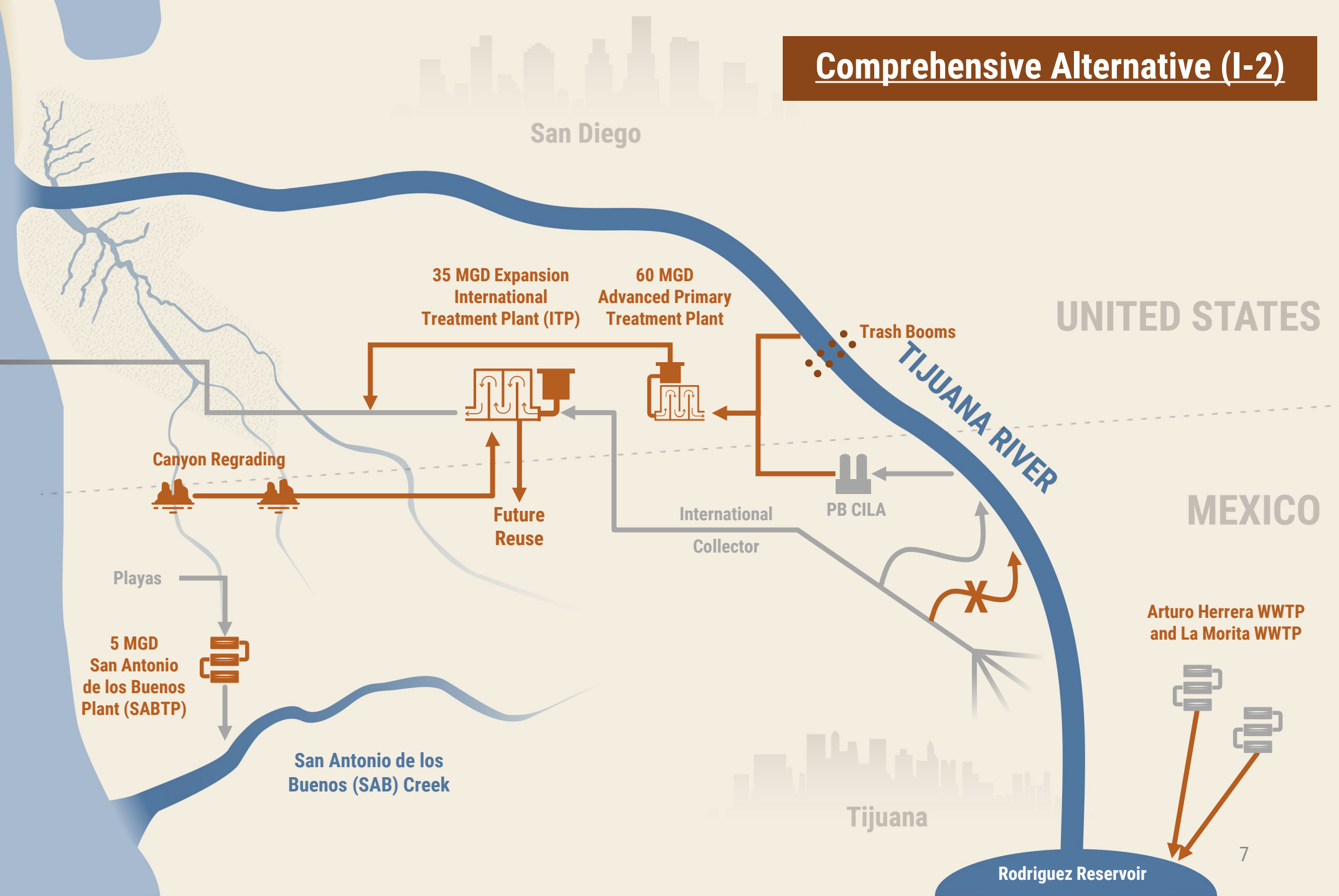
5 MGD San Antonio de los Buenos Plant (SABTP)

San Antonio de los Buenos (SAB) Creek

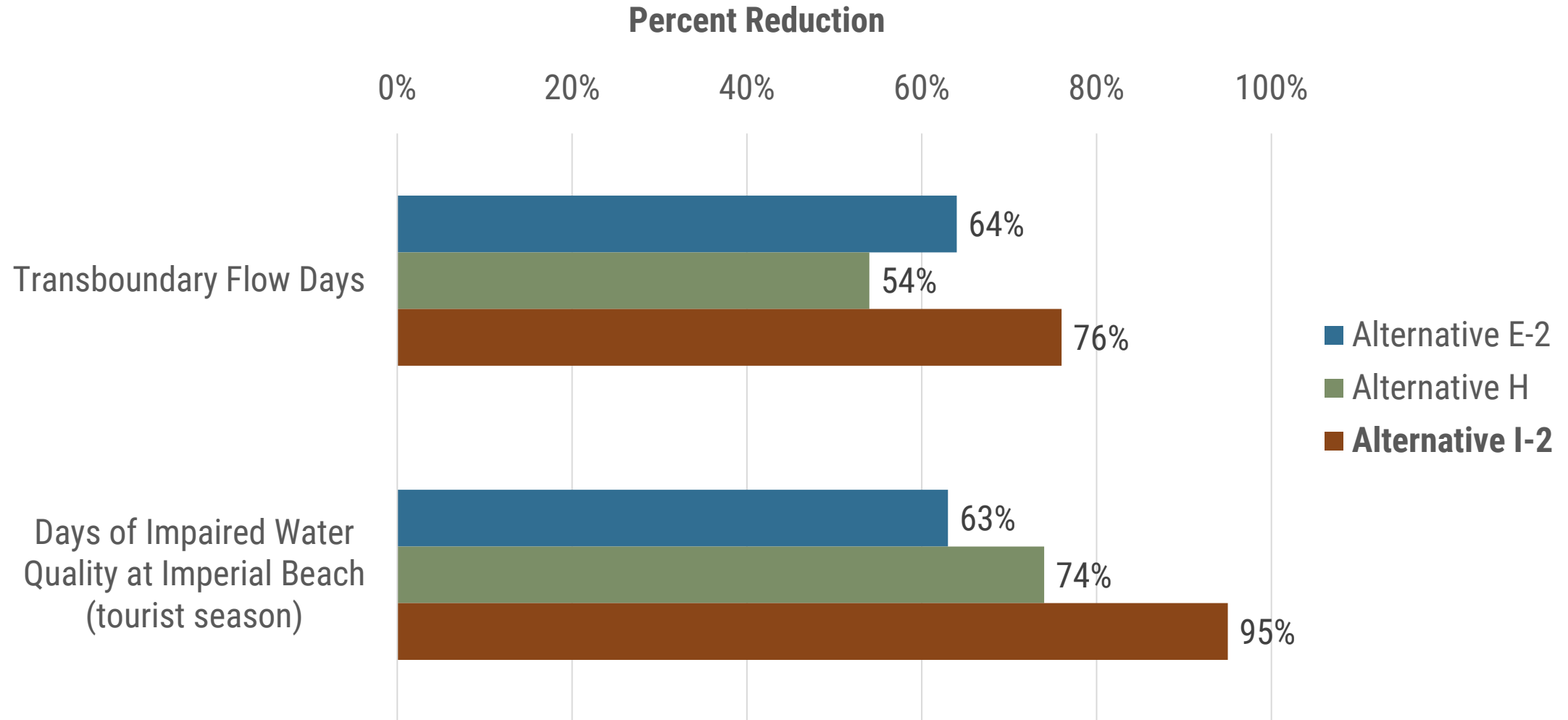
Tijuana

Arturo Herrera WWTP and La Morita WWTP

Rodriguez Reservoir

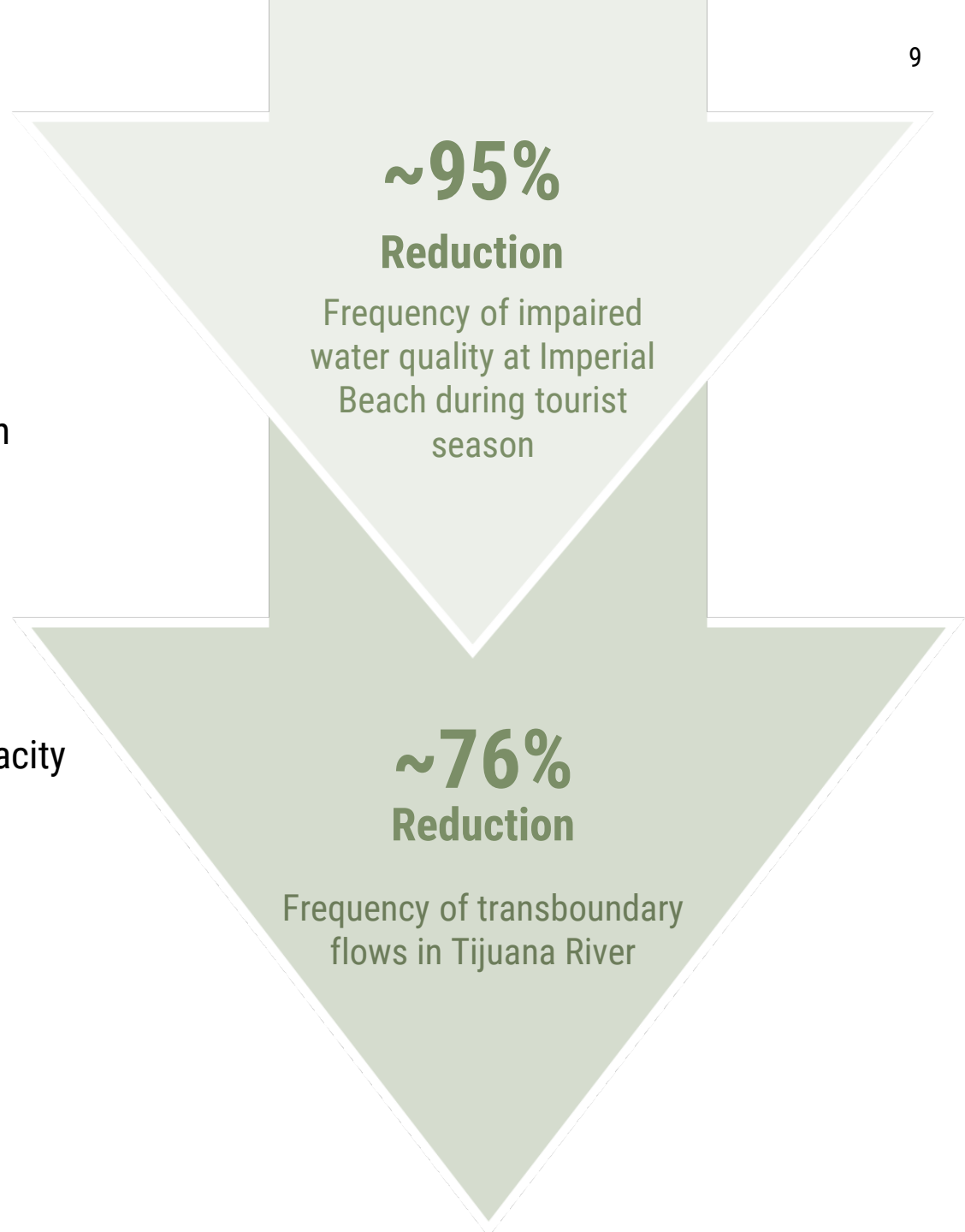


Environmental Benefits of Alternatives Analyzed



Key Benefits

- ▶ Treatment **capacity until ~2050** for all central Tijuana & canyon sewage
- ▶ Provides sufficient capacity for **all dry-weather and some wet-weather flows**
- ▶ **Acts as backup** if Mexico's diversion fails or flows exceed capacity
- ▶ Provides **more U.S. oversight and control** of wastewater infrastructure
- ▶ Incentivizes **water recycling**



Potential Sequence of Major Projects

Step 1



Expand ITP

Step 2 (In Any Order)



Convey Canyon Flows to ITP



Build U.S.-Side Advanced Primary Treatment Plant

Step 3



Build U.S.-Side River Diversion

Independent Projects (May Occur Concurrently with Steps 1-3)



Sewer Collection System Repairs



Reuse of Treated Effluent back to Rodriguez Dam



New SAB Treatment Plant



Reuse line from ITP to Mexico



Canyon Regrading



Trash Boom in Tijuana River

EPA Implementation Strategy

Doug Eberhardt

EPA R9: Environmental Engineer

Strategy for Binational Engagement with Mexico

Elevate issue through high level engagement

- Administrator Regan meetings with US Ambassador to Mexico, Consul General, etc.
- EPA leadership engagement with Mexico (SEMARNAT, SRE, Hacienda, Baja State Government)

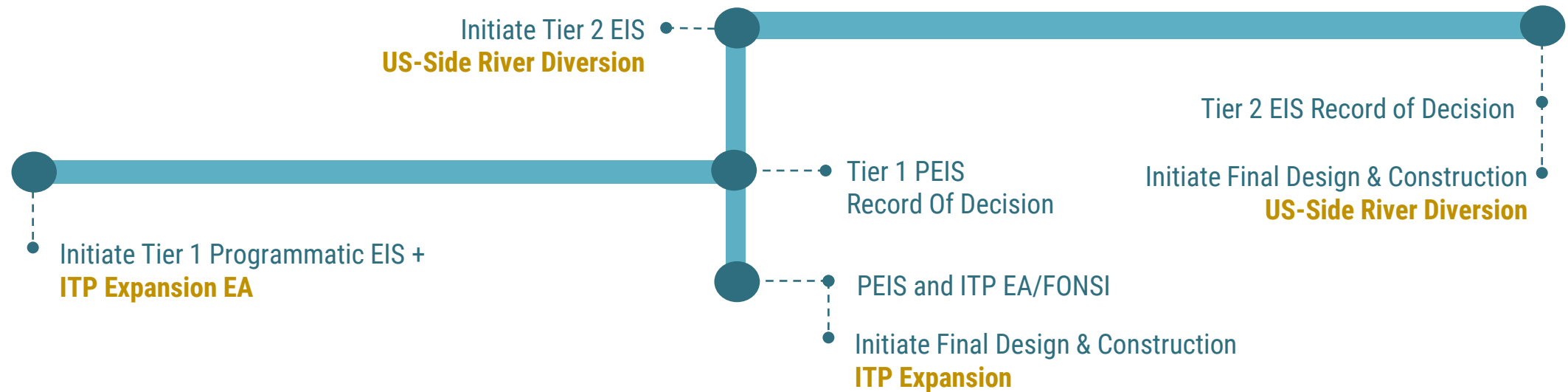
Reach binational agreement on solutions

- EPA, CONAGUA, IBWC and others meet biweekly
- Align project planning and reach agreement on projects to be built
- Preliminary discussions on cost sharing – capital and O&M
- Memorialize agreement(s) with Mexico

NEPA Strategy and Timeline

2021		2022				2023		
Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3

Expedited Process: Tiered* Programmatic EIS (PEIS)



*Tiered PEIS is a single comprehensive action that will incorporate all NEPA requirements.

Pending Items

Project Implementation

- Congressional Authorizing Language to transfer funds to International Boundary & Water Commission (IBWC)
- Operations & maintenance (O&M) funding for new systems

Next Steps

- Public meeting later today
- Reconvene EPECG early next year to update on NEPA process
- EIS analysis moves forward (comprehensive infrastructure solution)

Closing Remarks

Andrew Sawyers & Tomás Torres

EPECG Co-Chairs