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# USMCA Tijuana River Watershed

## Eligible Public Entities Coordinating Group (EPECG)

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**March 7, 2022**  
10:00 am – 11:00 am Pacific

### Agenda

Objectives:

- Engage EPECG members on recent transboundary flows.
- Provide an update on progress made on the EPA implementation strategy to address transboundary pollution in San Diego/Tijuana, including on the NEPA process and the ongoing binational engagement.

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**10:00 am**      **Welcome and Overview** – Deborah Jordan  
Andrew Sawyers

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**10:10 am**      **Updates**

- Recent Transboundary Flows - Morgan Rogers, International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)

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**10:25 am**      **EPA Implementation Strategy: Progress since November 2021**

- NEPA – Tom Konner
- Binational Engagement – Doug Liden
- Pending Items – Doug Liden
- Q&A for NEPA and Binational Engagement – Tom Konner & Doug Liden

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**10:55 am**      **Closing Remarks** - Tomás Torres



# USMCA Tijuana River Watershed

## EPECG Meeting

Virtual Meeting: March 7, 2022

# 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

- Welcome & Overview
- Updates on Recent Transboundary Flows
- EPA Implementation Strategy
  - NEPA
  - Binational Engagement
- Closing Remarks

# Welcome & Overview

Deborah Jordan

Deputy Regional Administrator

Andrew Sawyers

EPECG Co-Chair



**International Boundary and Water Commission**  
**United States Section**

# **Update on Recent Transboundary Flows**

Presentation for the  
USMCA Tijuana River Watershed  
Eligible Public Entities Coordinating Group (EPECG)  
March 7, 2022

Morgan Rogers, P.E.  
Area Operations Manager, San Diego Field Office  
IBWC - U.S. Section

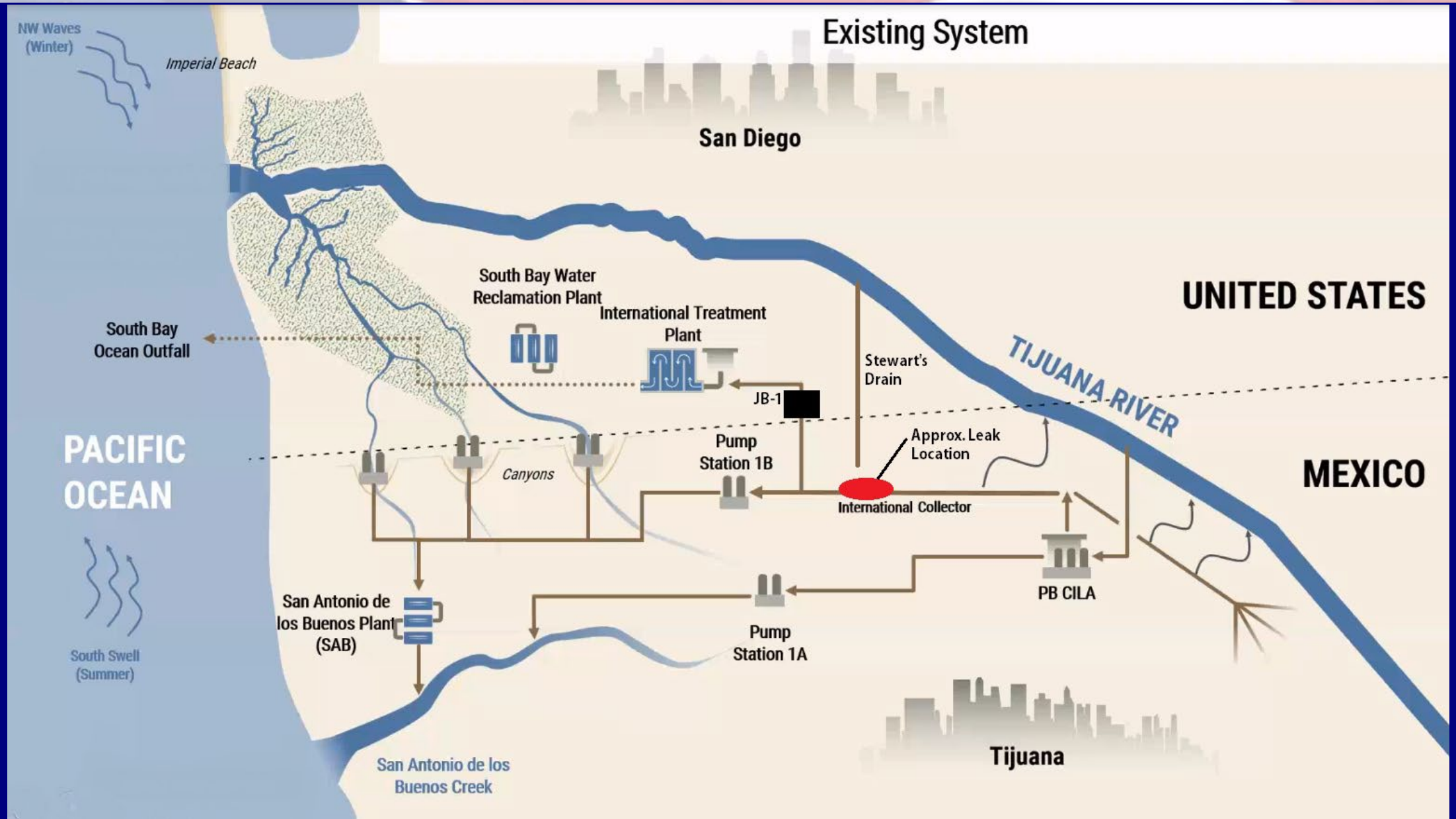


## Discoveries and Challenges

- Design flow of 25 MGD was not reaching the SBIWTP
- Transboundary flows at Stewart's Drain occurred when PB-CILA online
- Possible obstruction in wastewater pipeline restricting flow into SBIWTP and creating back pressure into the International Collector
- JB-1 gate valves inoperable and unable to regulate flow into SBIWTP
- Back pressure into the International Collector pipeline caused leakage in deteriorated section of MX International Collector pipeline and transboundary flows at Stewart's Drain



# International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section







# International Boundary and Water Commission

## United States Section

### Events & Timeline

- 12/23
  - PB-CILA shut down due to rain event
  - SBIWTP flows reduced from 25 MGD to less than 15 MGD (typical with PB-CILA shutdown)
- 1/7
  - PB-CILA back online
  - Daily transboundary flows at Stewart's Drain through 1/15
  - SBIWTP flows do not return to normal and remain at less than 15 MGD
- 1/15
  - PB-CILA shut down, daily transboundary flows stop
- 1/17
  - Second pump installed at Stewart's Drain to mitigate future transboundary flows





# International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

## Events & Timeline

1/19 - Veolia inspects 96" outlet at JB-1 with probe and finds no definitive evidence of obstruction

1/20 - USIBWC, CILA, CESPT, and Veolia inspect JB-1 for obstructions using CCTV and probe, find no definitive evidence of obstruction





# International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

## Events & Timeline

1/21-25 - Veolia prepares to lift 96" gate in JB-1

1/28 - PB-CILA online with one pump to reduce transboundary flows in river





# International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

## Events & Responses Timeline

- 2/7 - Mitigation measures installed for bypass of JB-1 if gate raising failed and resulted in further reduced flow to SBIWTP





# International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

## Events & Responses Timeline

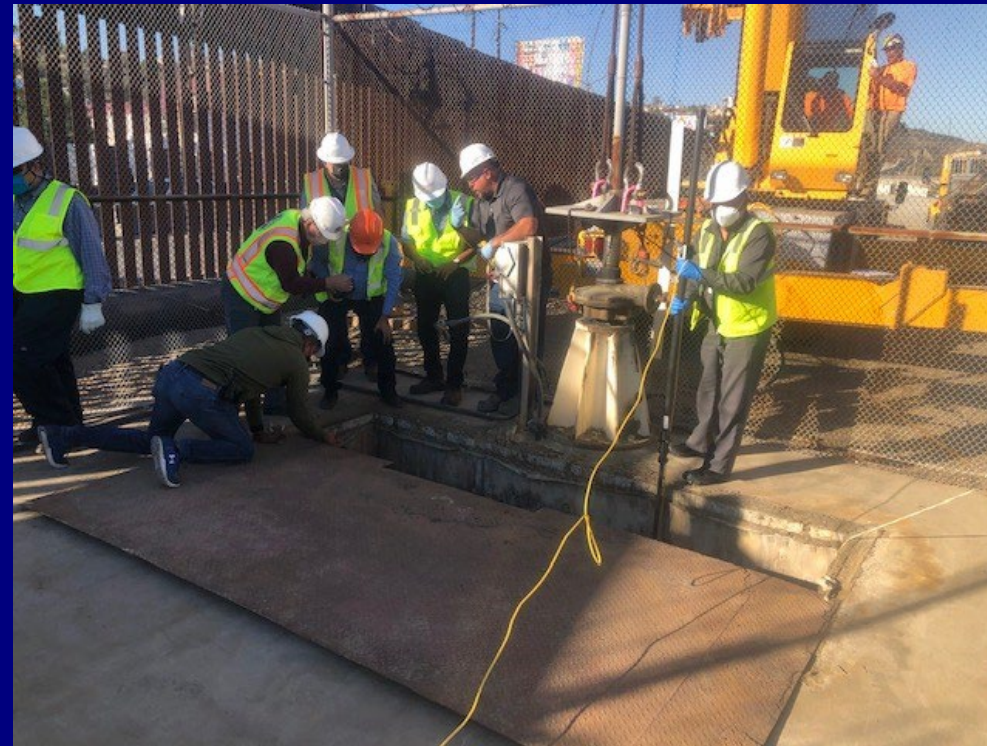
- 2/9
- Raised 96" gate by crane from 16" open to 54"
  - Re-evaluated JB-1 to SBIWTP pipeline for obstruction
  - Determined no CCTV inspection necessary
  - Monitored status of MX infrastructure





# International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

## Events & Responses Timeline





# International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

## Events & Responses Timeline



Flow Before



Flow After



# International Boundary and Water Commission

## United States Section

### Conclusions

- Proper flow restored through JB-1
- Flow volumes 25 MGD restored to SBIWTP
- Transboundary flows at Stewart's Drain stopped
- PB-CILA back online
- Wastewater system returned to normal





# International Boundary and Water Commission

## United States Section

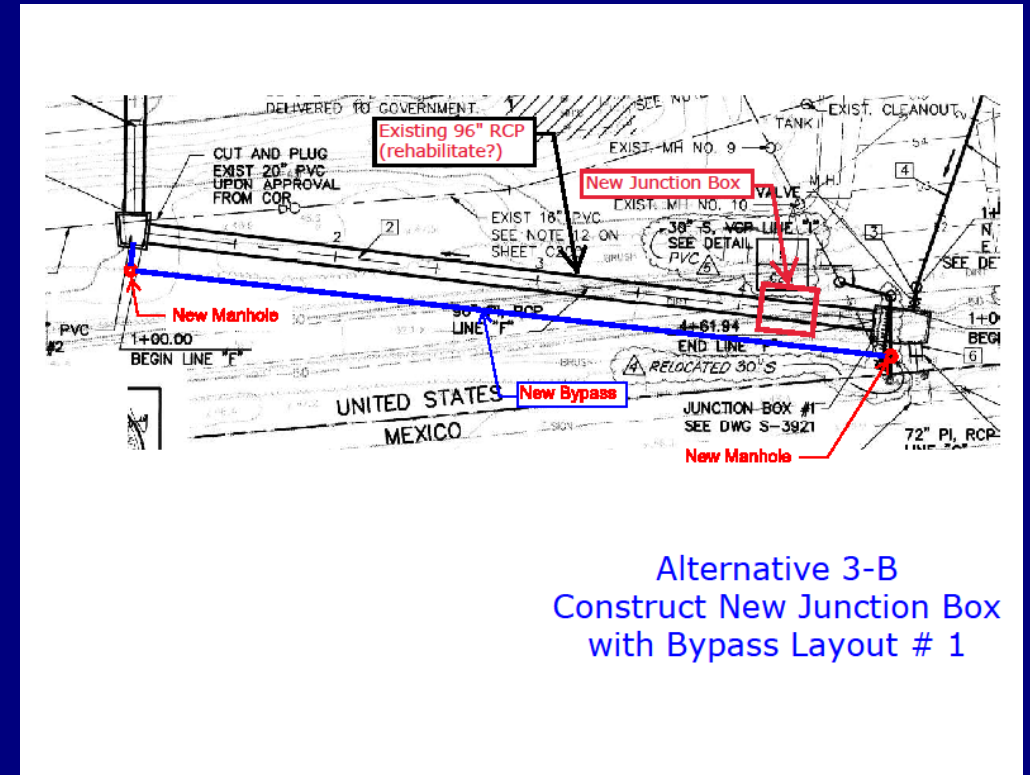
### Next Steps

#### Intermediate Term:

- Repair JB-1 to restore gates and flow control
  - Design complete Apr 2022
  - Procurement May 2022
  - Construction Start Jun 2022
  - Construction End Mar 2023
- \$1.5M FY22 Funds have been allocated to complete repairs at JB-1
- Rehabilitate International Collector
  - NAD Bank funding

#### Long Term:

- Plant Expansion through USMCA Priority Projects





# International Boundary and Water Commission

## United States Section

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

**QUESTIONS**



# International Boundary and Water Commission

## United States Section

### **FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**MORGAN ROGERS, P.E.  
AREA OPERATIONS MANAGER  
SAN DIEGO FIELD OFFICE  
IBWC - U.S. SECTION**

**(619) 662-7601  
MORGAN.ROGERS@IBWC.GOV**

# EPA Implementation Strategy

Tom Konner, EPA R9

Doug Liden, EPA R9

# NEPA Updates - Progress

## **Programmatic EIS**

- Draft Programmatic EIS scheduled to be completed in June
  - Public meeting
- Ongoing meetings with state and federal crosscutting agencies to prepare for formal consultation
- On schedule to sign Record of Decision for Programmatic EIS at the end of 2022
  - e.g., ITP Expansion

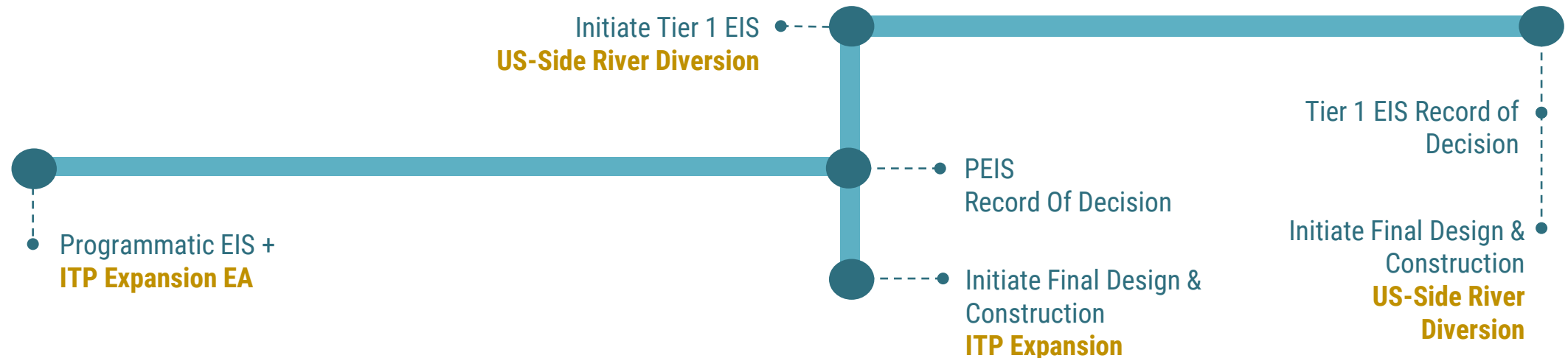
## **Tiered EIS**

- Tier 1 EIS for projects requiring more extensive analysis in 2023
  - e.g., US-side river diversion, trash boom

# NEPA Strategy and Timeline

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

## Expedited Process: \*Programmatic EIS (PEIS) + Tiered EIS



\*PEIS + Tiered EIS is an integrated action that will evaluate all projects within the Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution.

# NEPA Updates

## Trash Boom

- Potential pilot project for a season to collect data for NEPA evaluation
  - Quantity and type of trash in the Tijuana River
- Dependent on funding
- Identification of owner and operator

# Binational Engagement Updates

- Binational Technical Working Group Biweekly meetings since 9/30/2021
- Salazar Convened Meetings in Tijuana 11/22/2021
- Executive Leadership Group 2/25/2022



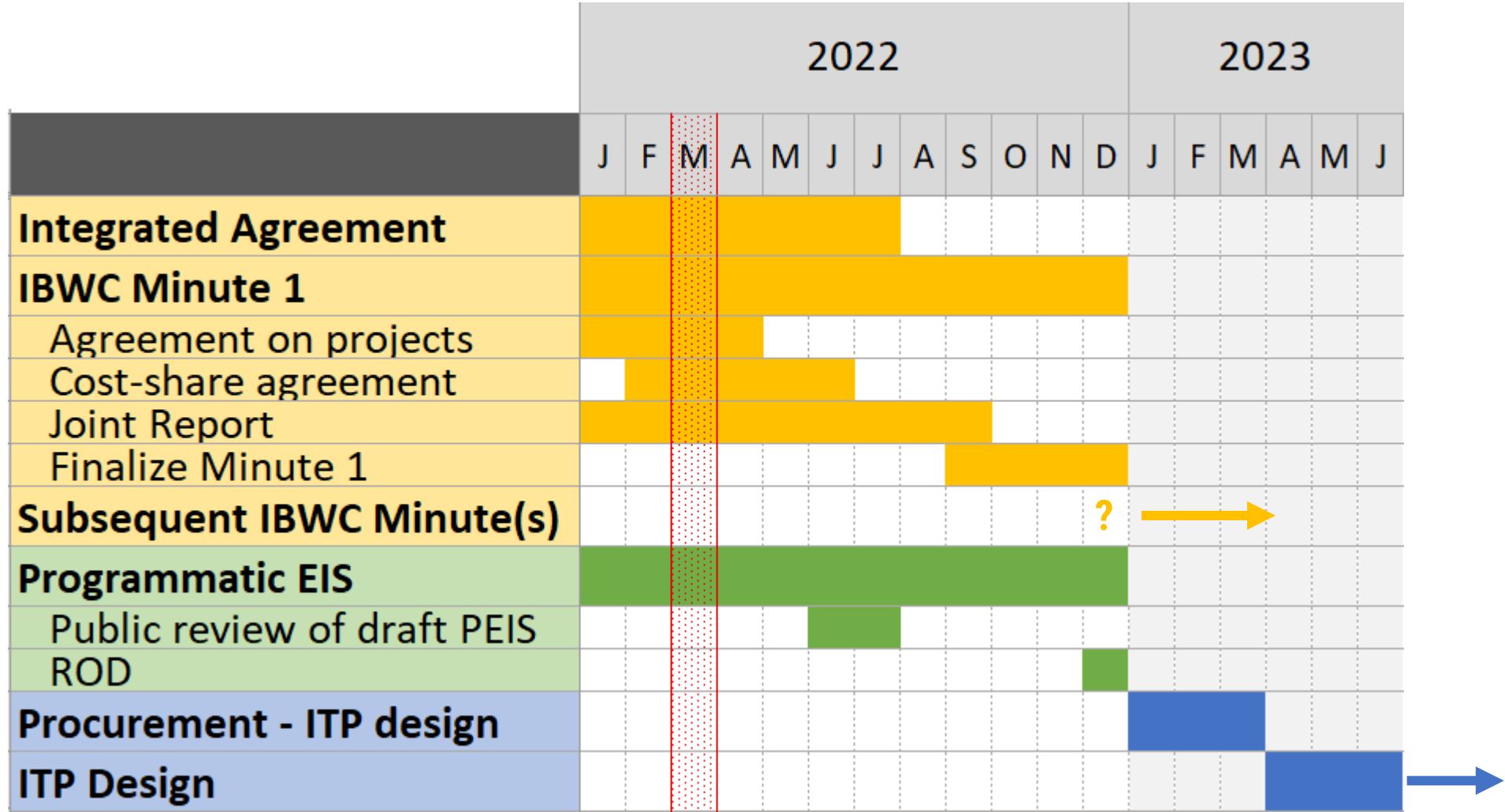


# Binational Engagement Goals

## **Reach binational agreement on the following:**

1. Overarching Integrated Agreement
  - Common vision to prioritize water quality improvements in the Tijuana River Watershed
  - Align project planning and list of projects to accomplish vision
  - Identify coordination processes
2. Agreement on First Set of Projects (Minute 1 Projects)
  - Identify U.S. and Mexico projects to proceed in Minute 1
  - Include cost-sharing of capital and O&M
  - Initiate IBWC Minute to bind agreements

# Milestones



ITP construction to begin in 2024

# 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**

- Reconvene in 3-4 months to update on NEPA and binational engagement progress
- Public meeting for Draft EIS in June

# Closing Remarks

Tomás Torres  
EPECG Co-Chair