
USMCA Tijuana River Watershed

Eligible Public Entities Coordinating Group (EPECG)

June 24, 2022
9: 00 am – 10:00 am Pacific

Agenda

Objectives:

- Update EPECG members on the IBWC pre-design work and ongoing binational engagement
- Provide an overview of the Draft PEIS, including a summary of the alternatives, environmental consequences, and mitigation measures
- Inform EPECG members of the public comment period for the Draft PEIS

9:00 am **Welcome and Overview**

9:10 am **Updates**

- IBWC Pre-Design Work – International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)

9:15 am **Binational Engagement**

- Binational Engagement Goals

9:20 am **NEPA: Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement**

- NEPA Process, Existing System and Alternatives
- Environmental Consequences & Public Comment Period
- PEIS Next Steps & Pending Items
- Q&A's

9:55 am **Closing Remarks**



USMCA Tijuana River Watershed

EPECG Meeting

Virtual Meeting: June 24, 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**

Welcome & Overview

Martha Guzman
Regional Administrator

Andrew Sawyers
EPECG Co-Chair

Today's Agenda

- Welcome & Overview
- IBWC Pre-Design Work Update
- Binational Engagement
- NEPA: Draft PEIS
- Closing Remarks



International Boundary and Water Commission
United States Section

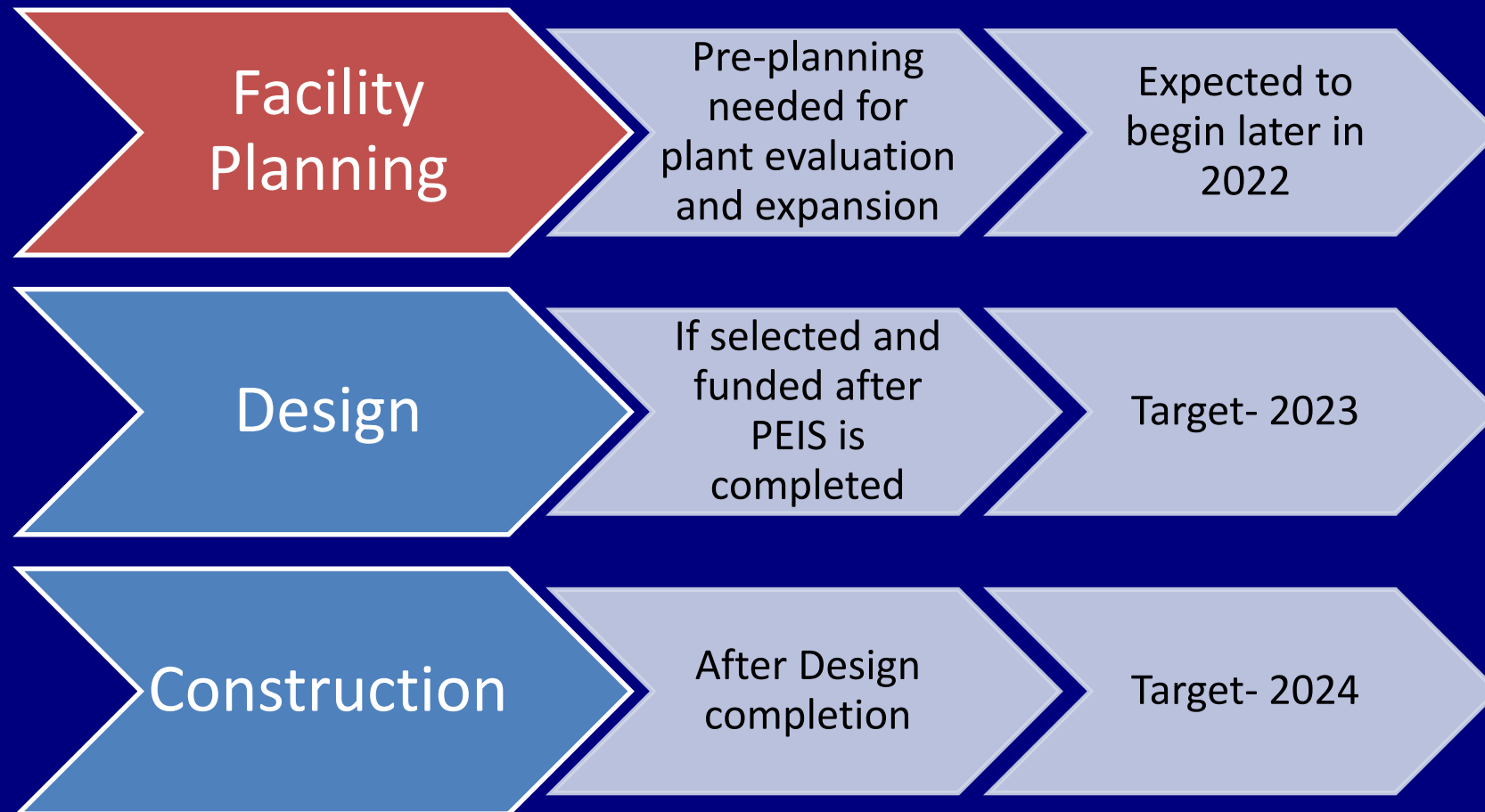
IBWC Pre-Design Work Update

Presentation for the
USMCA Tijuana River Watershed
Eligible Public Entities Coordinating Group (EPECG)
June 24, 2022

Gilbert Anaya
San Diego Field Office
IBWC - U.S. Section



Program Management for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant



Binational Engagement

Doug Liden, EPA R9

Binational Engagement Goals

Statement of Intent

- Agreement between EPA and CONAGUA
- Conceptual framework for implementing the comprehensive infrastructure solution, identify projects, resources and timelines.
- Include cost-sharing of capital projects on both sides of border.
- Expected to be signed this summer

Minute 1

- Agreement between USIBWC and CILA
- Statement of Intent but includes cost-share on O&M of ITP
- Expected to be signed July 2022

NEPA: Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Ami Cobb, EPA HQ

Elizabeth Borowiec, EPA R9

Doug Eberhardt, EPA R9

NEPA and Public Review

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process:

- Requires federal agencies to evaluate environmental and related social and economic impacts of proposed federal actions prior to making decisions
- Provides opportunity for public review and comment on those evaluations
- EPA and USIBWC have prepared a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

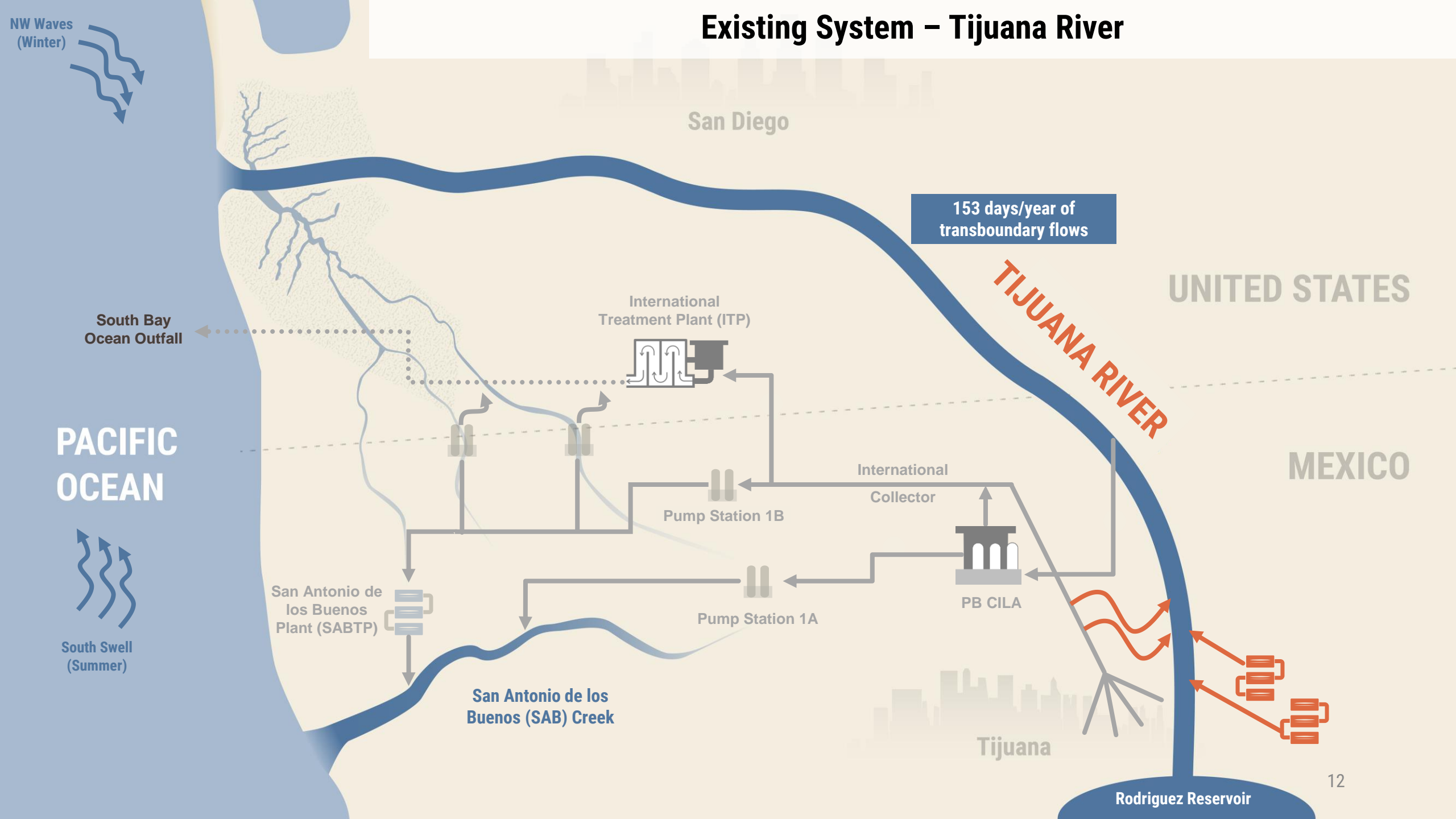
Purpose and Need of the Proposed Action

- Reduce transboundary flows from Tijuana that convey pollutants, sewage, and/or trash into the U.S. and cause adverse public health and environmental impacts in the Tijuana River watershed and adjacent coastal areas

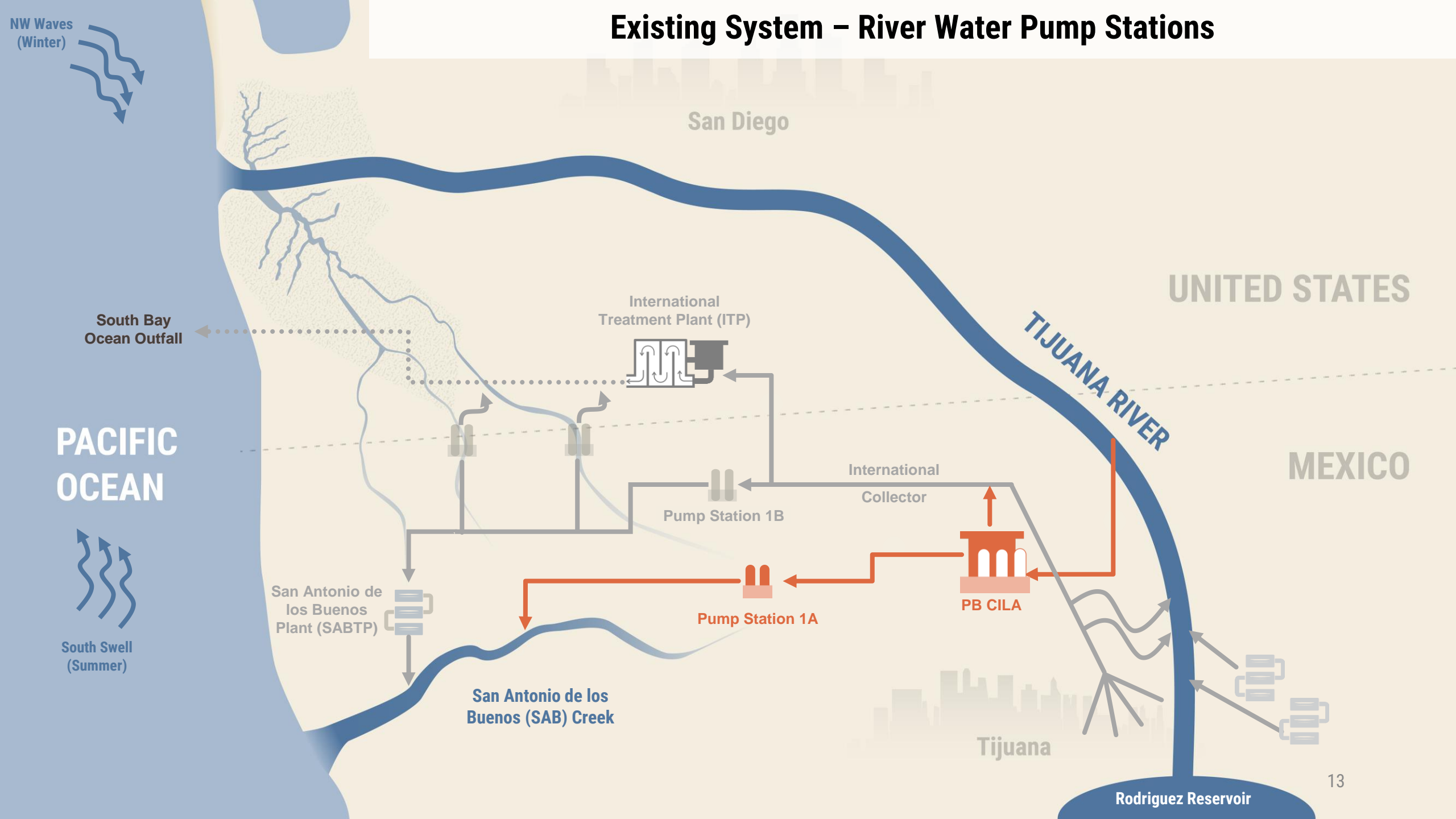
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) Schedule

NEPA Activity	Date
Draft PEIS (start of comment period)	June 17, 2022
NEPA Virtual Public Meeting (public comments received)	July 19 & 20, 2022
Close of comment period	August 1, 2022
Final PEIS	November 2022
Record of Decision	December 2022

Existing System – Tijuana River



Existing System – River Water Pump Stations



San Diego

UNITED STATES

MEXICO

TIJUANA RIVER

International Treatment Plant (ITP)

South Bay Ocean Outfall

PACIFIC OCEAN

International Collector

Pump Station 1B

Pump Station 1A

PB CILA

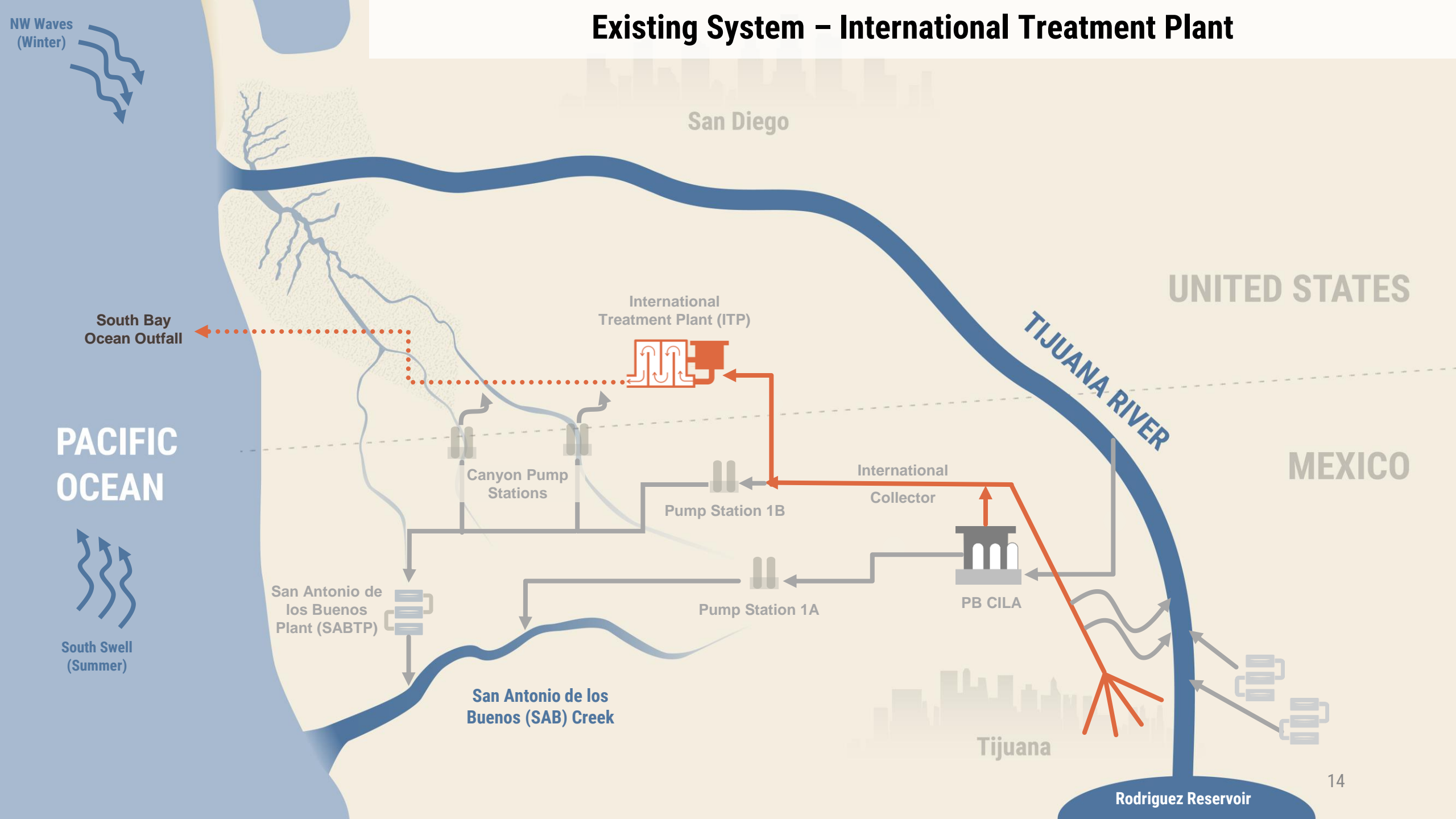
San Antonio de los Buenos Plant (SABTP)

San Antonio de los Buenos (SAB) Creek

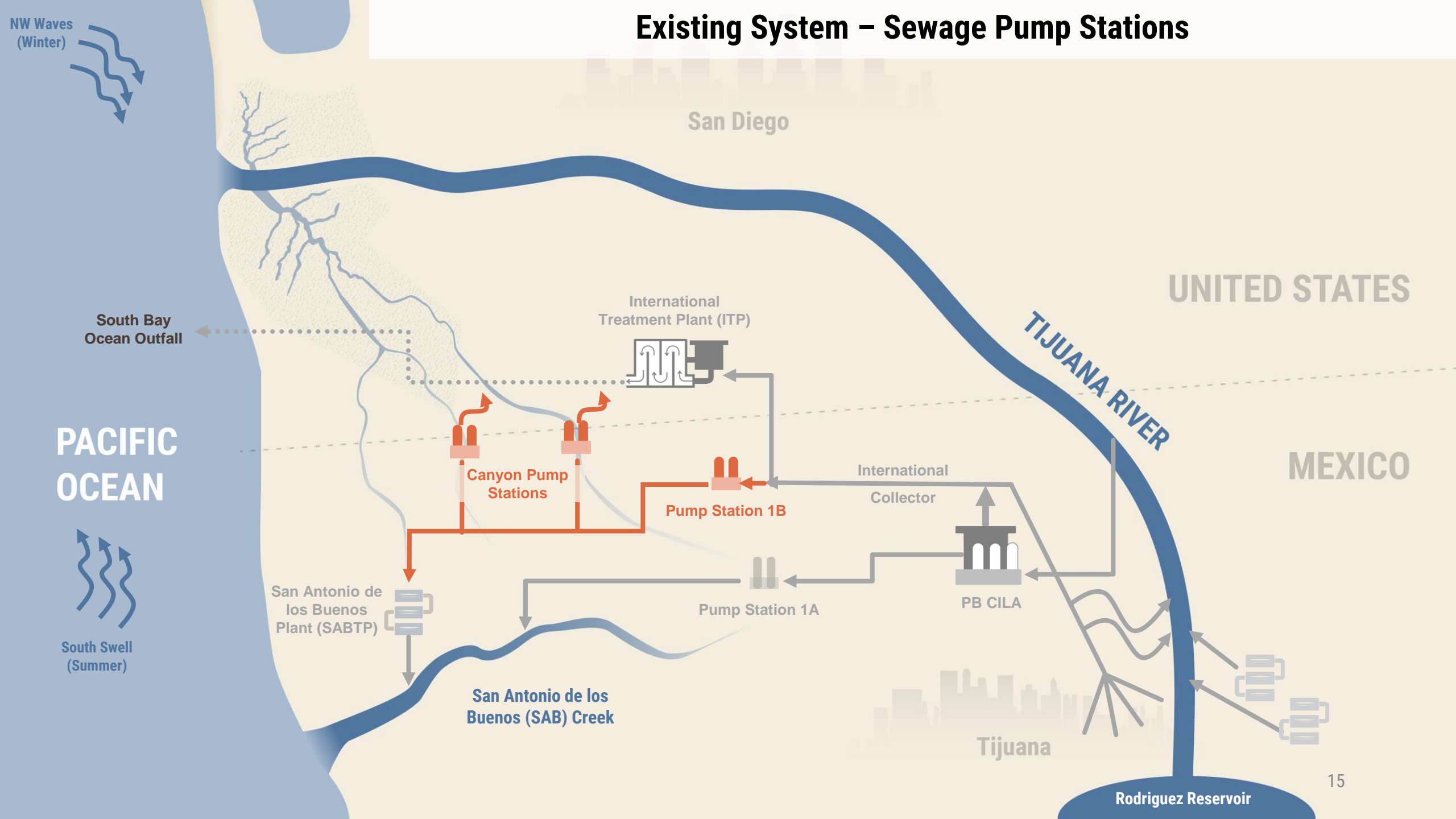
Tijuana

Rodriguez Reservoir

Existing System – International Treatment Plant



Existing System – Sewage Pump Stations



San Diego

UNITED STATES

MEXICO

TIJUANA RIVER

PACIFIC OCEAN

International Treatment Plant (ITP)

South Bay Ocean Outfall

Canyon Pump Stations

Pump Station 1B

International Collector

Pump Station 1A

PB CILA

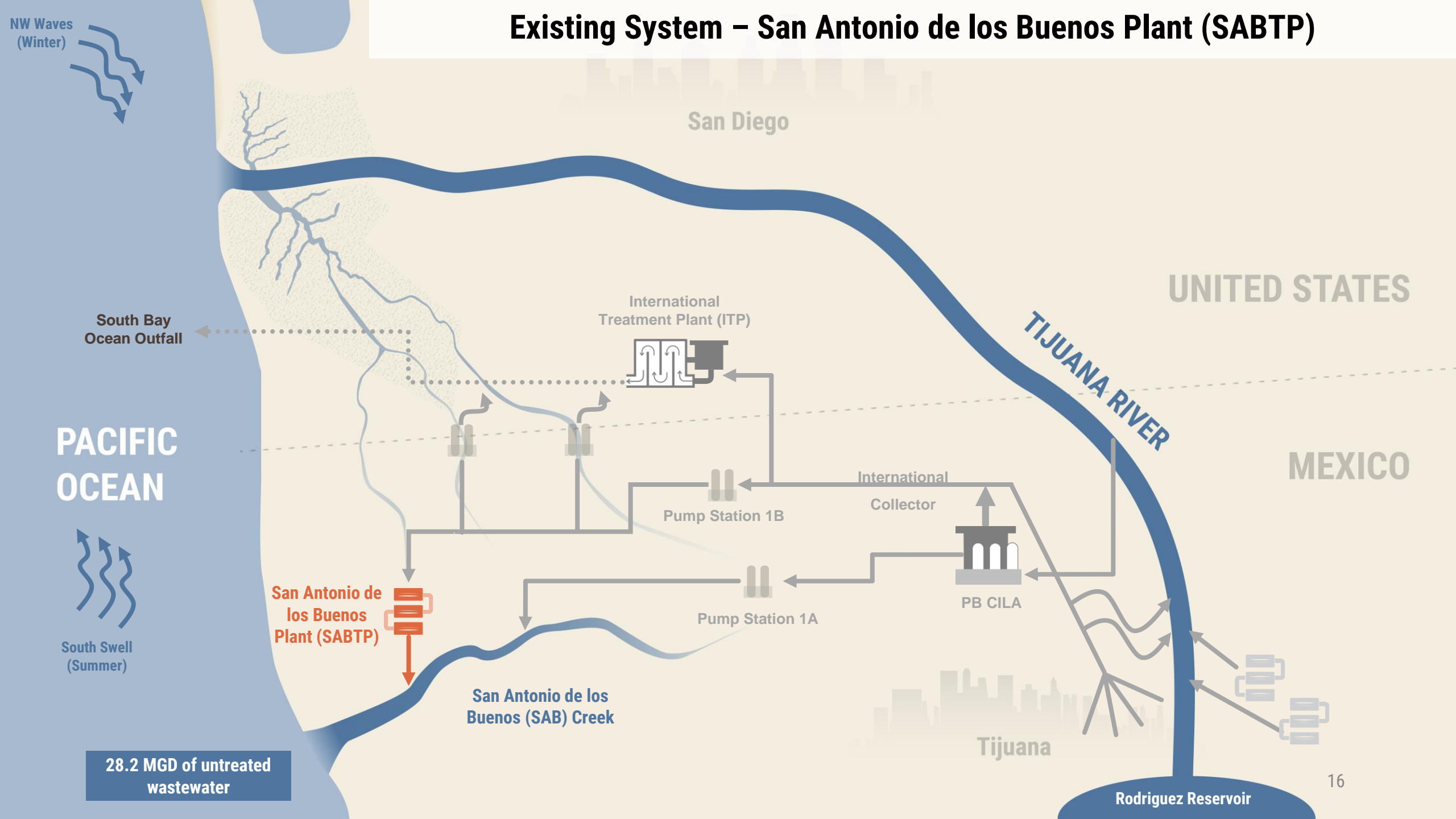
San Antonio de los Buenos Plant (SABTP)

San Antonio de los Buenos (SAB) Creek

Tijuana

Rodriguez Reservoir

Existing System – San Antonio de los Buenos Plant (SABTP)



Draft PEIS Alternatives

No-Action Alternative (Existing System)

- No disbursement of funding and continuation of current conditions.

Alternative 1: Core Projects

- Includes some components of the Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution.
- Projects have undergone a full environmental analysis in PEIS.

Alternative 2: Core + Supplemental Projects

- Includes all components of the Comprehensive Infrastructure Solution.
- Would require substantial additional U.S. appropriations and tiered environmental analysis.

Draft PEIS Alternatives

Order of projects does not necessarily reflect order of implementation

Alternative		Project Title	Project Location
Alternative 1: Core Projects (A-D)	Alternative 2: Core Projects + Supplemental Projects (A-J)	A. Expanded ITP	U.S. only
		B. Tijuana Canyon Flows to ITP	U.S. and Mexico
		C. Tijuana Sewer Repairs	Mexico only
		D. APTP Phase 1 (35 MGD) – Treatment of PBCILA flows	U.S. and Mexico
E. APTP Phase 2 (60 MGD)		U.S. only	
F. U.S.-side River Diversion to APTP		U.S. only	
G. New SABTP		Mexico only	
H. Tijuana WWTP Treated Effluent Reuse		Mexico only	
I. ITP Treated Effluent Reuse		U.S. and Mexico	
J. Trash Boom(s)		U.S. only	

No Action Alternative (Existing System)

Imperial Beach

San Diego

153 days/year of transboundary flows

UNITED STATES

South Bay Ocean Outfall

International Treatment Plant (ITP)

PACIFIC OCEAN

MEXICO

TIJUANA RIVER

International Collector

Pump Station 1B

PB CILA

San Antonio de los Buenos Plant (SABTP)

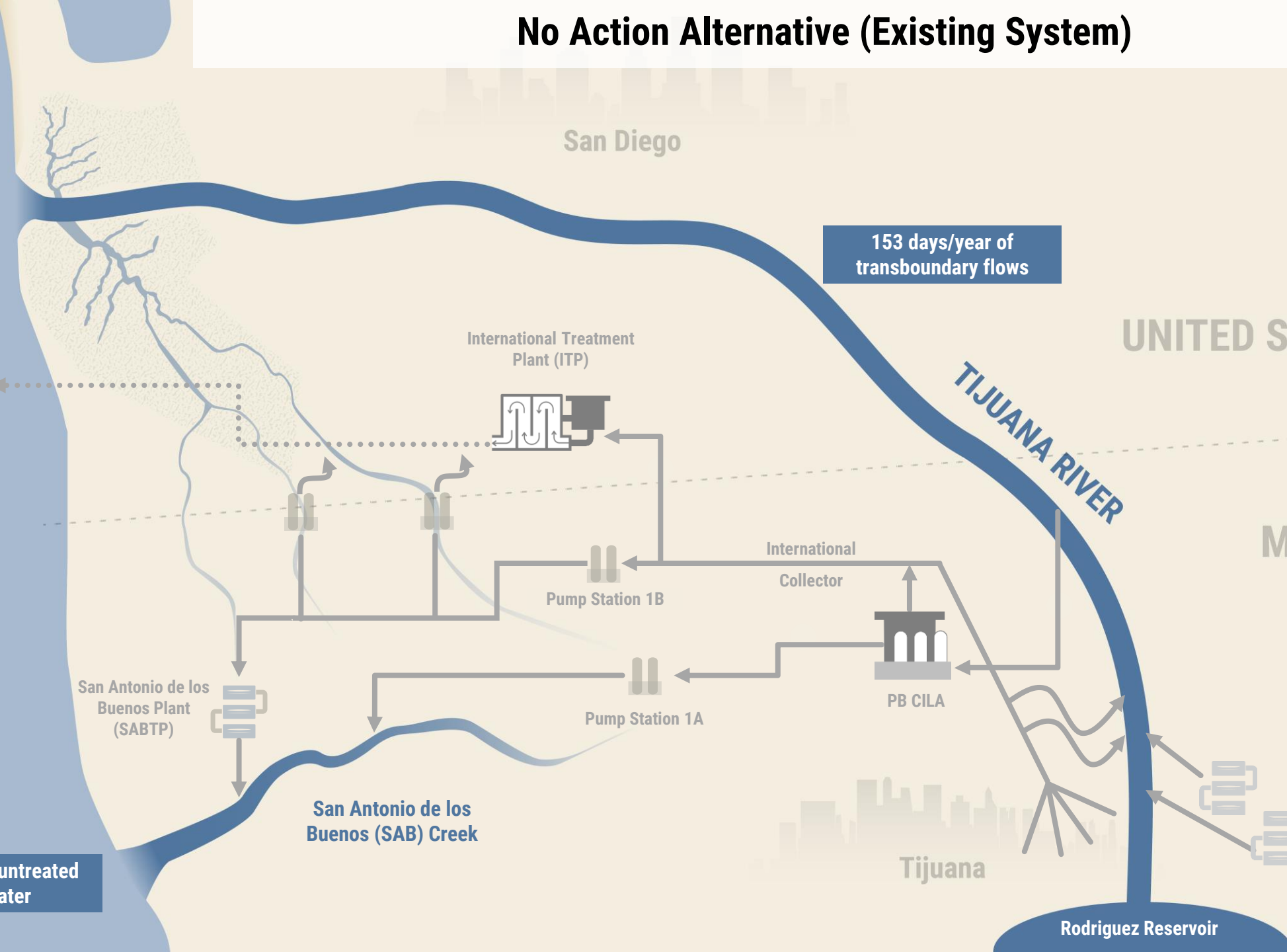
Pump Station 1A

San Antonio de los Buenos (SAB) Creek

Tijuana

28.2 MGD of untreated wastewater

Rodriguez Reservoir



Alternative 1: Core Projects

Imperial Beach

San Diego

UNITED STATES

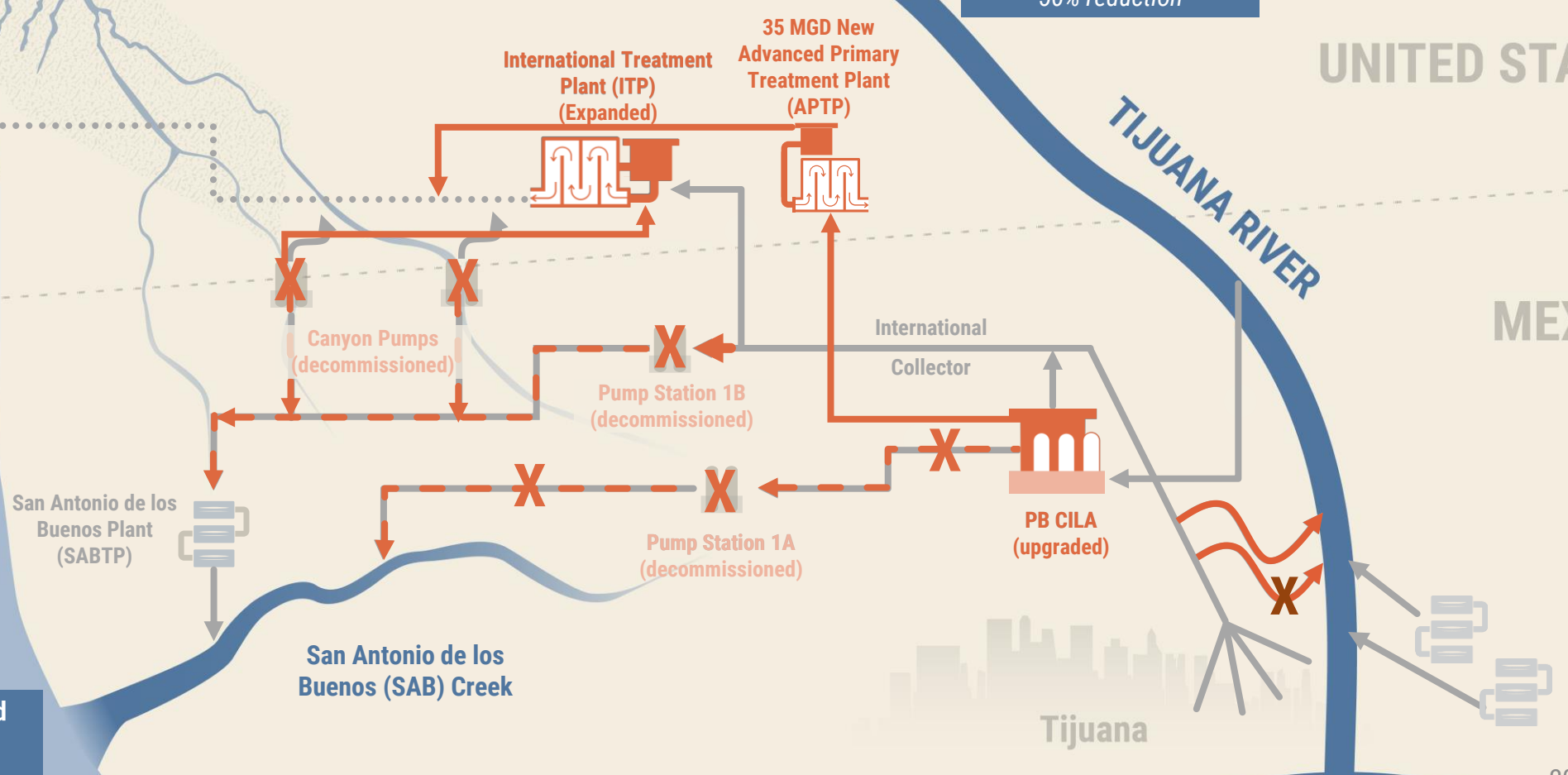
MEXICO

South Bay Ocean Outfall

PACIFIC OCEAN

68 days/year of transboundary flows
56% reduction

TIJUANA RIVER



2.2 MGD of untreated wastewater
92% reduction

San Antonio de los Buenos (SAB) Creek

Tijuana

Rodriguez Reservoir

Alternative 2: Core + Supplemental Projects

Imperial Beach

San Diego

- Core Projects
- Supplemental Projects

36 days/year of transboundary flows
76% reduction

UNITED STATES

MEXICO

South Bay Ocean Outfall

PACIFIC OCEAN

Trash boom(s)

TIJUANA RIVER

International Treatment Plant (ITP) (Expanded)

60 MGD New Advanced Primary Treatment Plant (APTP)

Future Reuse

International Collector

Canyon Pumps (decommissioned)

Pump Station 1B (decommissioned)

PB CILA (upgraded)

San Antonio de los Buenos Plant (SABTP)

San Antonio de los Buenos (SAB) Creek

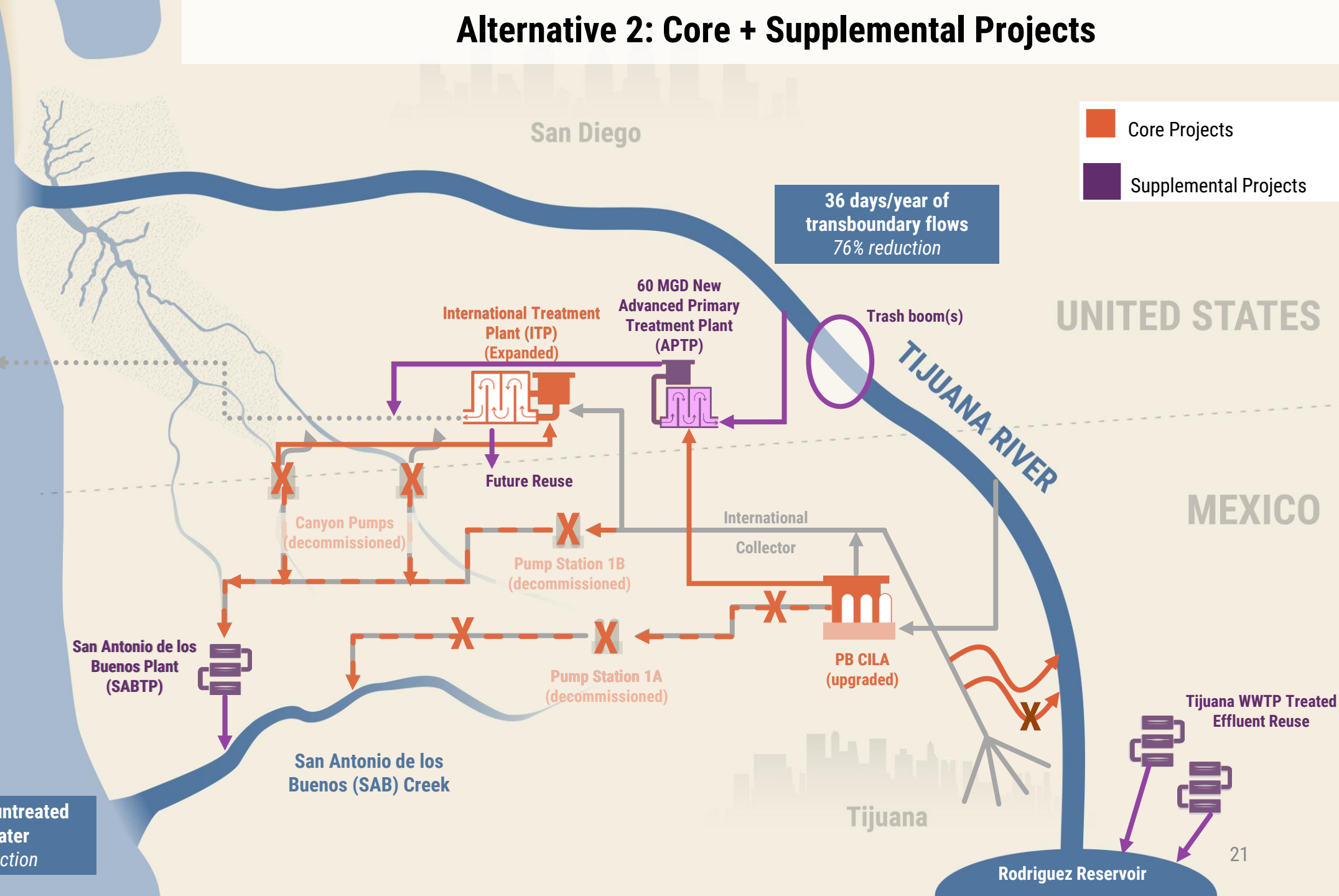
Pump Station 1A (decommissioned)

Tijuana

Tijuana WWTP Treated Effluent Reuse

0.1 MGD of untreated wastewater
99% reduction

Rodriguez Reservoir



Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1: Core Projects – Five Resource Areas Impacted

- Marine waters - 1 significant impact (SI)
- Transportation – 1 SI
- Noise – 3 SI
- Air Quality and Odor – 4 SI
- Climate – 1 SI

Environmental Justice (EJ) concerns

- “The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies” (EPA, 2021c)

Mitigation Measures

- 11 mitigation measures to address significant impacts listed above
 - 5 mitigation measures intended to address EJ concerns

Significant Impact and Mitigation Measure

Example Resource Area: Noise

Significant Impact	Mitigation Measure
Potential localized, short-term exceedances of city and county noise levels during construction	Construction timing limited to Monday-Saturday from 7:00a.m.to 7:00p.m.
Potential for substantial, short-term increases in noise levels during construction in specific areas near noise-sensitive receptors (e.g., protected species habitat and recreational areas in Smuggler's Gulch; residences immediately adjacent to portions of Monument Rd)	Construction timing for work within 300 feet of suitable least Bell's vireo or coastal California gnatcatcher habitat limited to time-of-year restrictions outside of bird breeding season
Potential long-term impacts from increase in noise due to continuous (or near-continuous) operation of biogas-fired engine and electrical generator	Proper siting of biogas-fueled engine and electrical generator within the ITP parcel (e.g., away from the property boundary) within corporation of noise attenuation features.

Draft PEIS Comments

Comment Period Now Open

- Draft PEIS now available on EPA website
<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/usmca-tijuana-river-watershed>
- NEPA public comment meetings (July 19 and July 20)
 - Register on EPA USMCA website (above)
- Email your comments
 - Tijuana-Transboundary-EIS@epa.gov

NEPA Next Steps

1) Draft PEIS

- NEPA public comment meetings for Draft PEIS on July 19 and July 20
- 45-day public review and comment period ends August 1
- Consider substantive comments

2) Final PEIS

- Provide responses to substantive comments made during public review of DPEIS
- Public review and comment period (30 days)

3) PEIS process ends with issuance of the Record of Decision

- If selected, core projects can begin design and construction

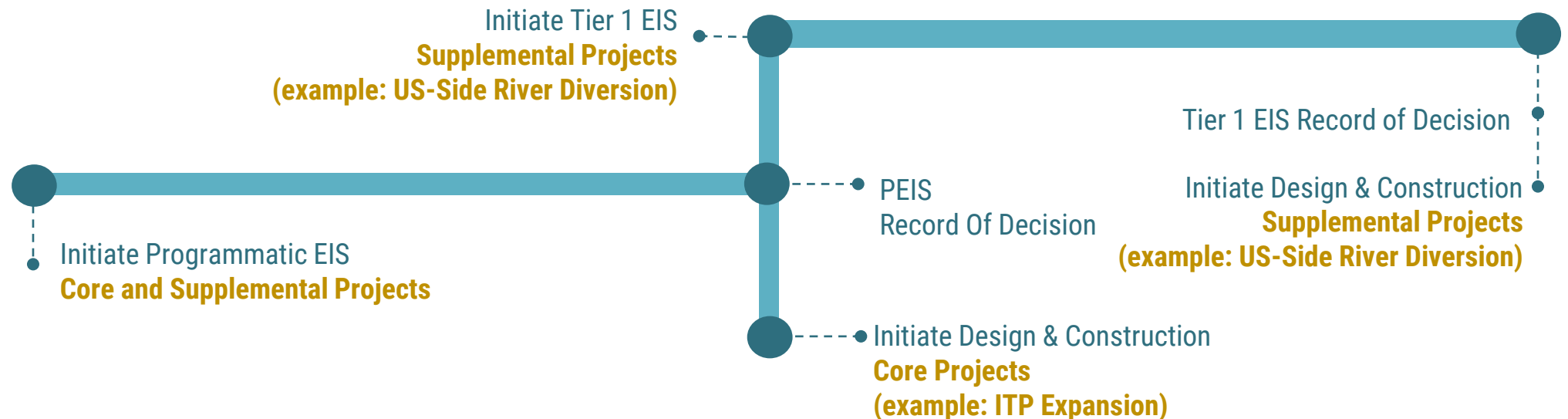
4) Tier 1 EIS

- Commence in early 2023 to evaluate projects listed as “Supplemental Projects” that require more complex environmental analysis

NEPA Timeline

CY 2021		CY 2022				CY 2023				CY '24
Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1

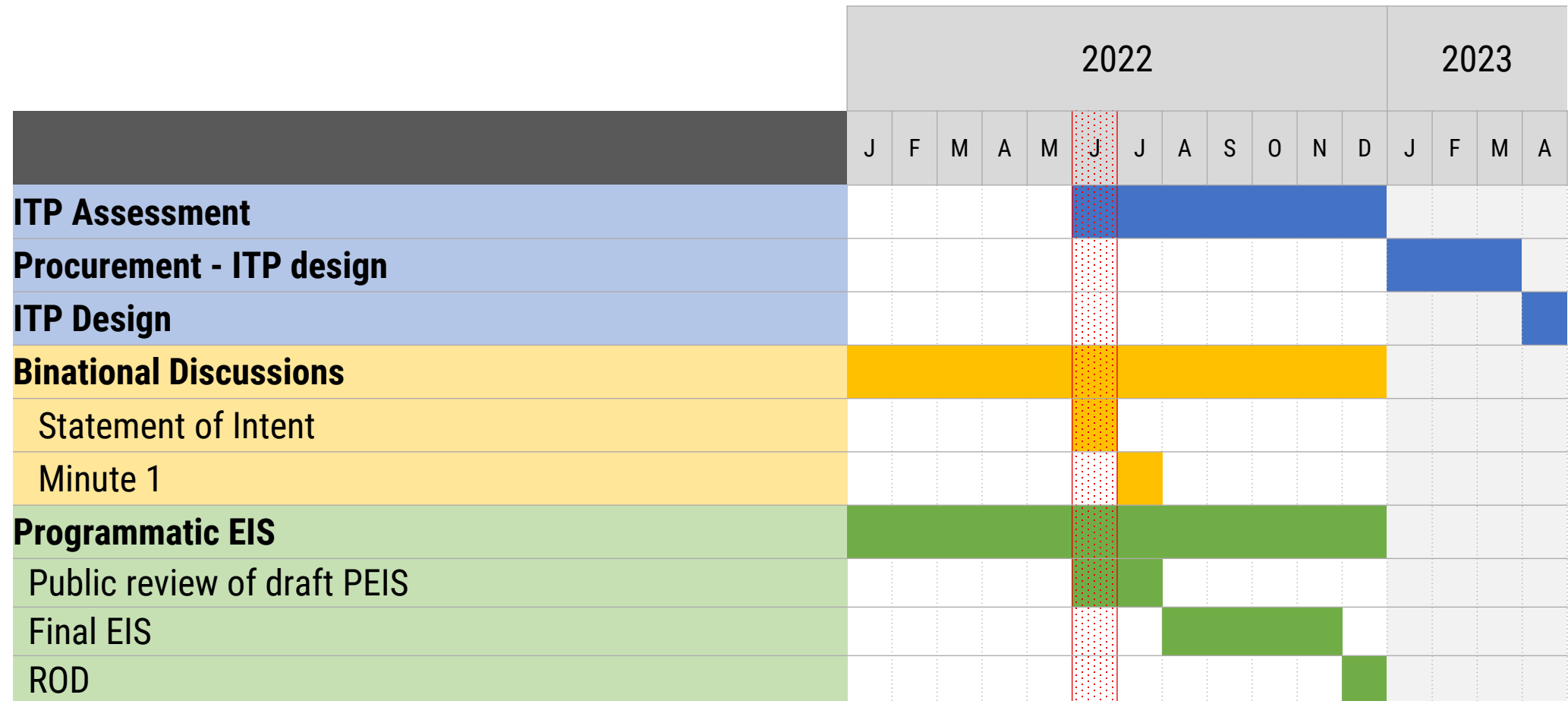
Expedited Process: Tiered* Programmatic EIS (PEIS)



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

ITP = South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Diego County

Milestones



ITP construction to begin in 2024

Pending Items

Project Implementation

- Congressional authorizing language/other legal mechanism to transfer funds from EPA to IBWC for construction
- Other legal mechanism to transfer funds from State of CA to IBWC for USMCA projects
- Operations & maintenance funding for new systems

Next Steps

- Public information meeting (June 28th)
- Finalize binational agreements
- Reconvene EPECG in 2-3 months to provide updates

Closing Remarks

Tomás Torres
EPECG Co-Chair