
USMCA Tijuana River Watershed

Eligible Public Entities Coordinating Group (EPECG)

May 4, 2023
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. PT

Agenda

Objective:

- Share update on progress, including NEPA, ITP pre-design study, projects in Mexico, and Congressional authorization language.

9:00 am 10 mins	Welcome and Opening Remarks – Martha Guzman, U.S. EPA Regional Administrator and Andrew Sawyers, U.S. EPA Office of Water, IBWC Commissioner Giner
9:10 am 15 mins	Update on Pre-Design for ITP Expansion – Gilbert Anaya, Chief, Environmental Management Division, USIBWC <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Existing facility assessment- Expansion evaluation
9:25 am 10 mins	General Updates – Lily Lee, Manager, Water Infrastructure Section, U.S. EPA <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Congressional Authorization- Status of Statement of Intent on short-term projects in Mexico
9:35 am 10 mins	USMCA Planning / NEPA Updates – Emily Parker and Doug Liden, U.S. EPA <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Final PEIS and Record of Decision- Endangered Species Act consultations- Flood modeling
9:45 am 10 mins	Q & A
9:55 am 5 mins	Closing Remarks – Martha Guzman, U.S. EPA Regional Administrator and Andrew Sawyers, U.S. EPA Office of Water, IBWC Commissioner Giner



USMCA Tijuana River Watershed

Eligible Public Entities Coordinating Group

In-Person/Hybrid Meeting: May 4, 2023

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

Today's Agenda

- Welcome & Overview
- General Updates
 - Congressional Authorization
 - Status of short-term projects in Mexico
- ITP Pre-Design Study Update
- ITP Expansion Progress and Milestones
- USMCA Planning / NEPA
 - Record of Decision (ROD)
 - Endangered Species Act Consultation
 - Flood modeling

- Closing Remarks

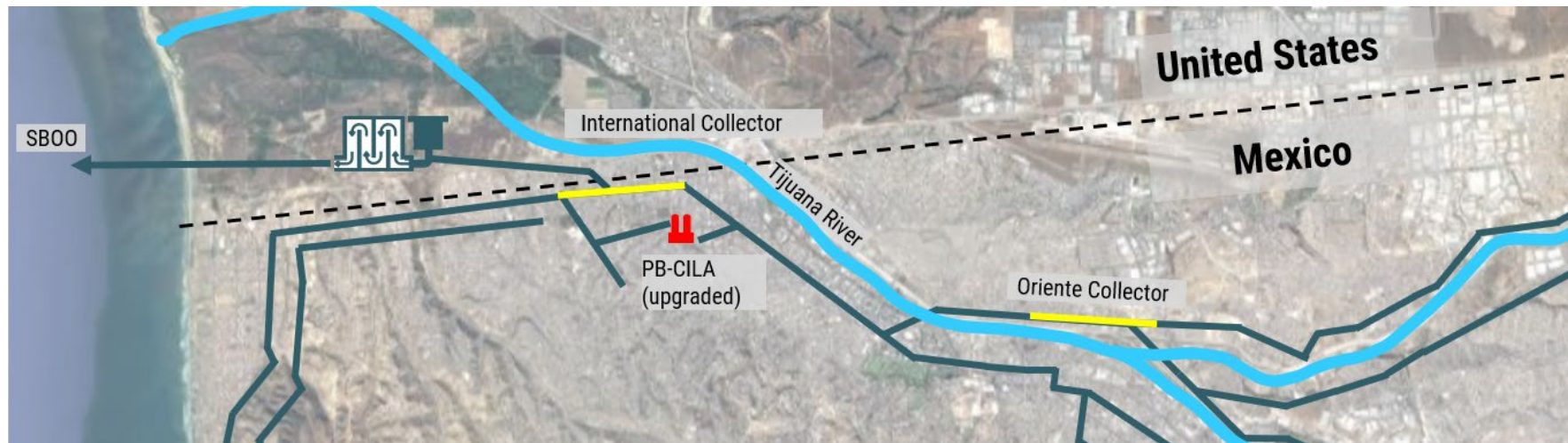
Congressional Authorizing Language

Limits to Congressional Authority for funding contributions

- FY23 Budget authorizes Interagency Agreement for EPA to transfer USMCA funds to IBWC for Planning, Design and Construction
- Congress has NOT authorized funds transfer to USIBWC from any other sources, e.g., other Federal agencies, State, County, etc.

Status of projects in Mexico (Per Statement of Intent/Minute 328)

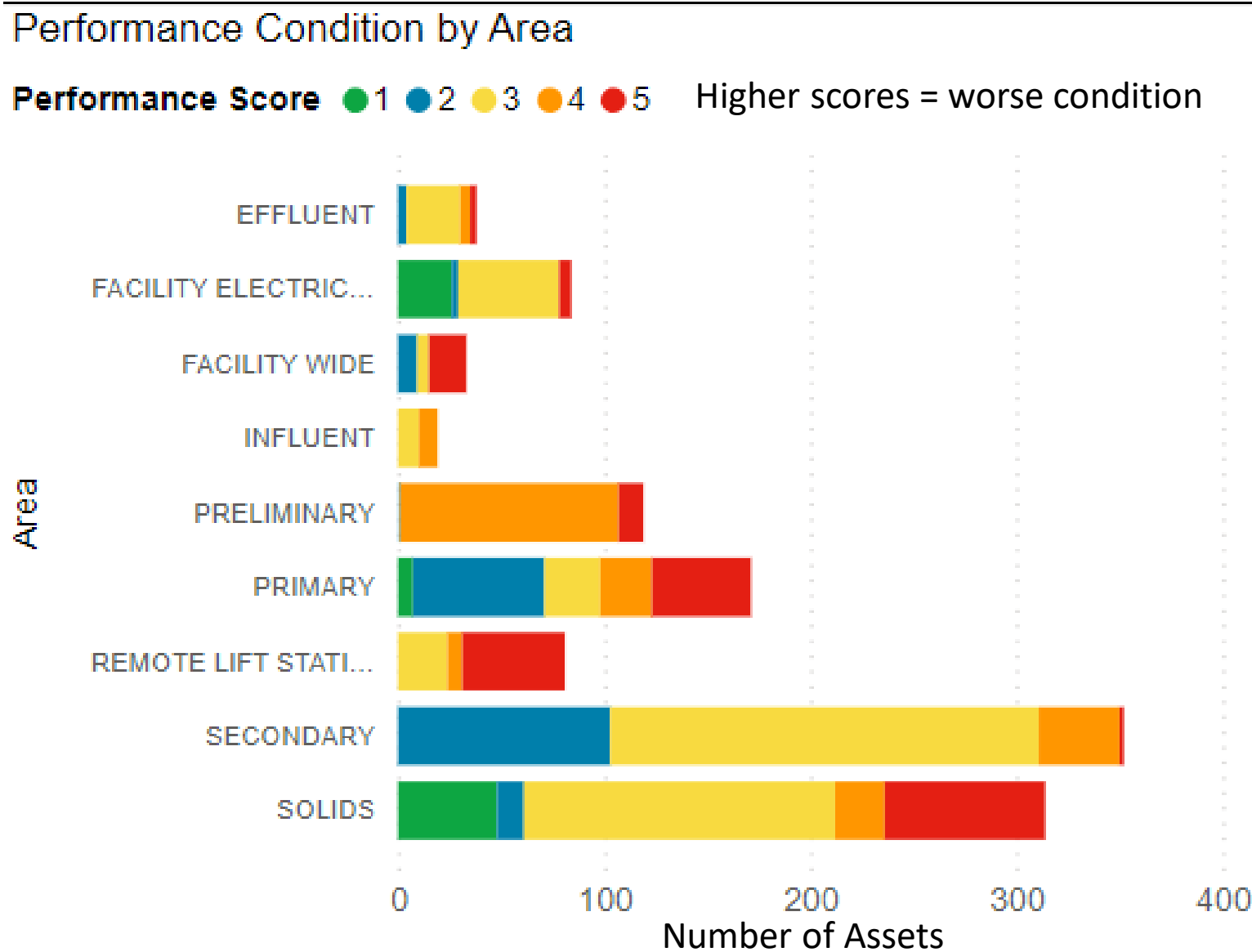
- Rehabilitation of the Oriente Collector expected to be complete by the end of the month
- Rehabilitation of the International Collector and PB1 to begin this year
- San Antonio de los Buenos



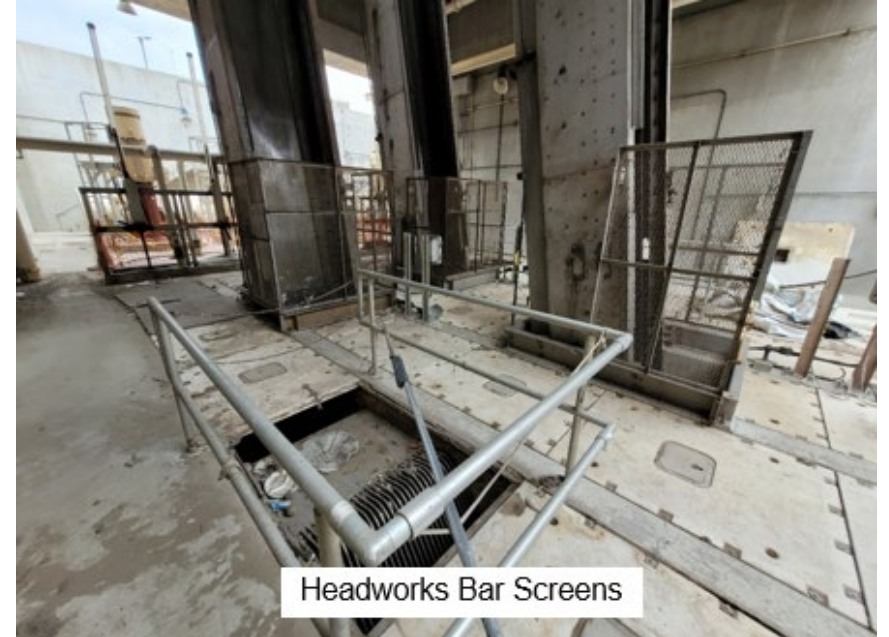
Pre-Design Update

Gilbert Anaya, USIBWC

SBIWTP- Existing Facility Assessment



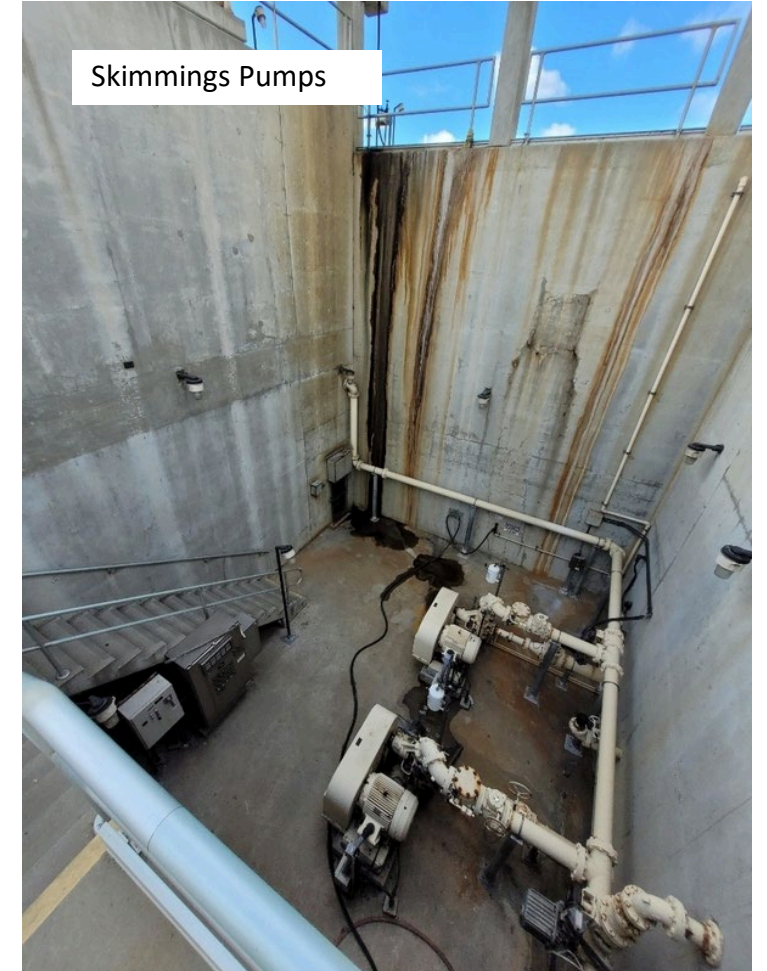
Headworks Facility



The front end of the SBIWTP has significant wear and tear over 25 years of operation.

Photos- Influent pumps and bar screens require replacement. Influent debris and solids impact Headworks facility. Many other components require rehab or replacement.

Primary Sedimentation Tanks (PSTs)



- Solids and debris carryover have also impacted the PSTs.
- Instruments, skimmings, and mixing equipment are corroded.
- All the existing equipment requires rehabilitation.

Evaluation of largest possible expansion

Primary Treatment:

- New influent Pump Station
- New fine Screenings and Grit Removal Facility
- 2 new primary sedimentation tanks
- Primary treatment conversion to chemically enhanced primary treatment
- New Odor Control system

Secondary Treatment:

- 4 new Activated Sludge tanks
- New Blowers and blower building
- 10 new secondary sedimentation tanks

Solids Handling:

- Dewatering system expansion
- Add anaerobic digestion - 4 new anaerobic digesters
- Evaluation of biogas production and reuse
- New Odor Control system



ITP Expansion Progress and Milestones

- December 2022 – NMFS ESA consultation completed
- May 2023 – FWS ESA consultation completion
- June 2023 – ROD signed
- August 2023 – Completion of ITP pre-design studies
- September 2023 – Procurement for design begins

Construction is expected to take 3 years.

USMCA Planning / NEPA

Emily Parker, EPA

Doug Liden, EPA

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

- Public review period ended on December 19, 2022
- Ten comments received
 - Supporting/opposing the Proposed Action
 - Concerns with CBP border barrier project
 - Cumulative impacts
- Response to comments will be included in the Record of Decision (ROD) document



Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultations

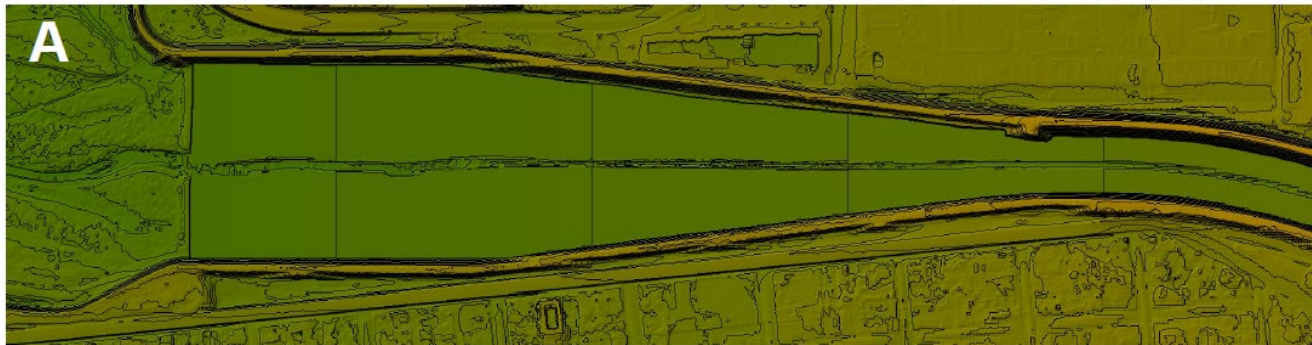
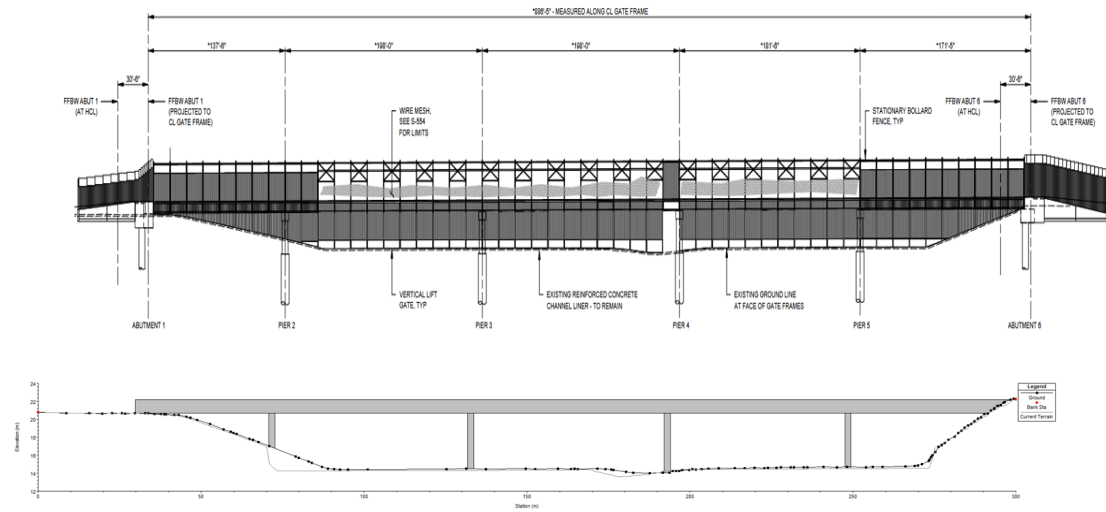
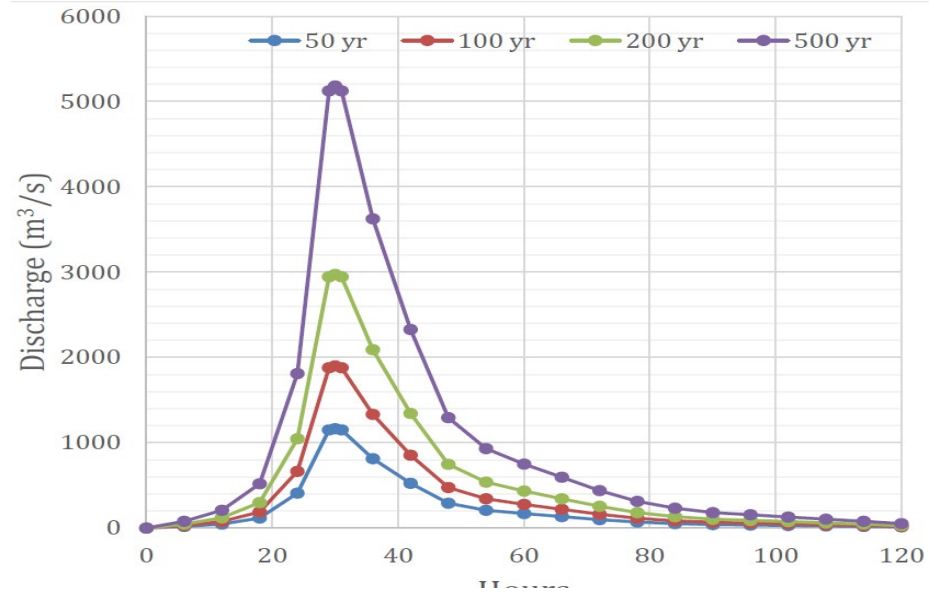
- Formal consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) completed in December 2022
- Informal consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) started in May 2022 and ongoing:
 - EPA provided supplemental analysis on potential effects to two bird species, least Bell's vireo and light-footed Ridgway's rail (April 2023)
 - Negotiating mitigation strategies to address potential effects from reduced flows in the Tijuana River
 - Anticipate completion by the end of May 2023

ROD signature in June 2023 will formally complete NEPA and clear the path to design.

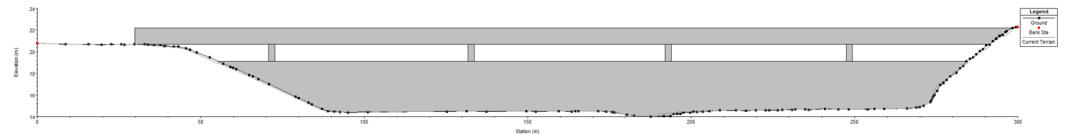
Flood modeling

- Consistent with Executive Order 1369, Federal Flood Risk Management Standard
- Responsive to public comments on cumulative effects in PEIS
- Performed by modeling experts at University of California at Irvine (Zeppelin Floods, LLC)
- Results will be summarized in the ROD and will inform USMCA project design

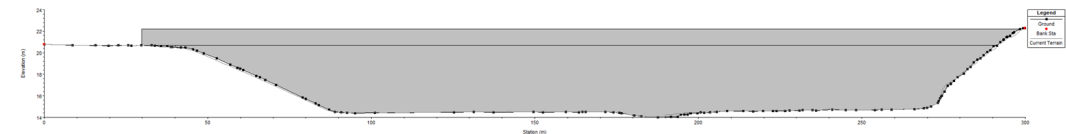
Modeling of possible flooding on projects in PEIS



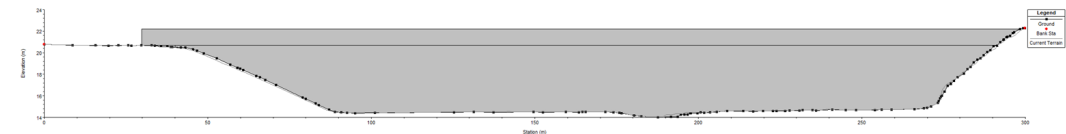
0% Blockage



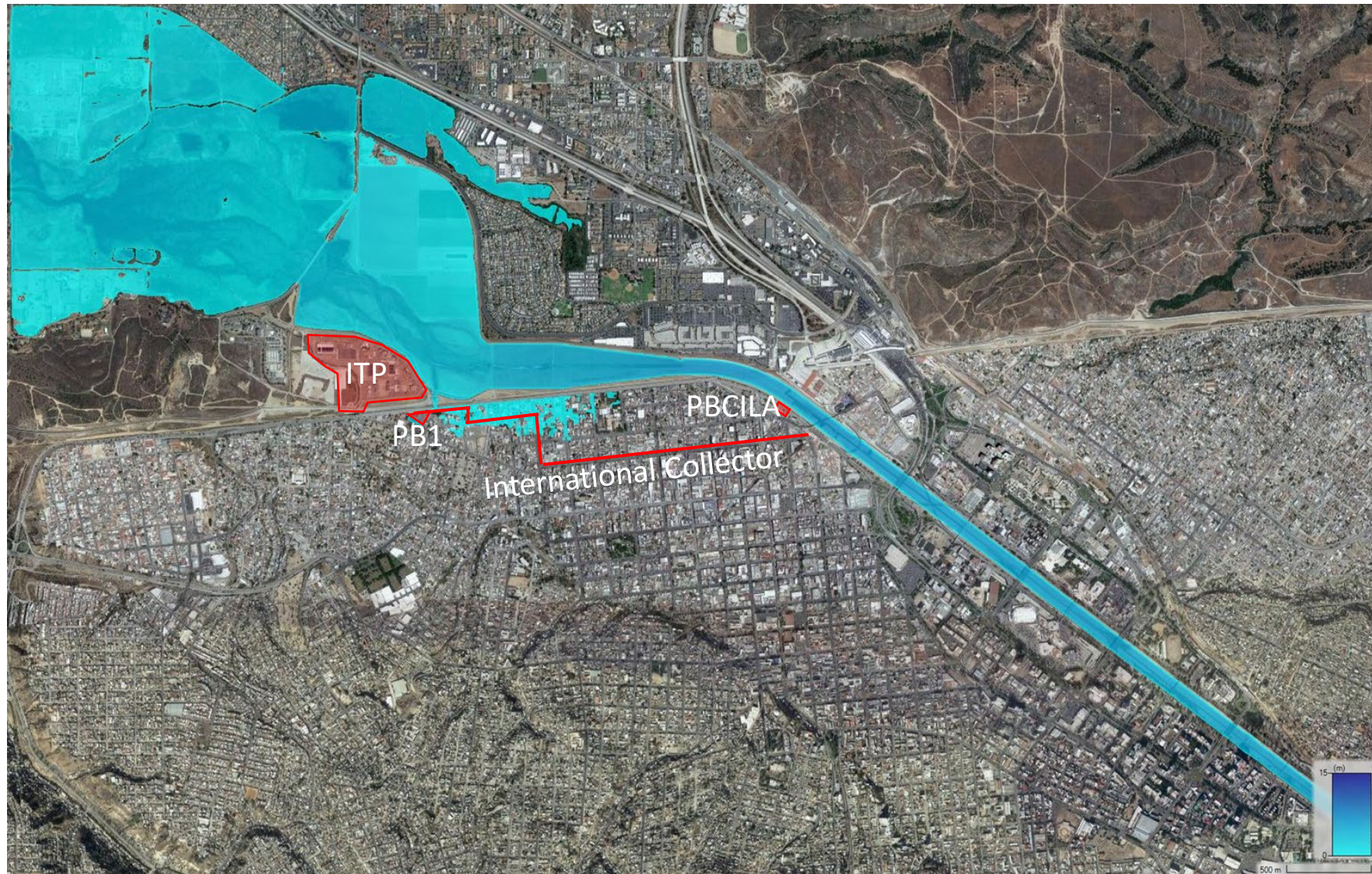
75% Blockage



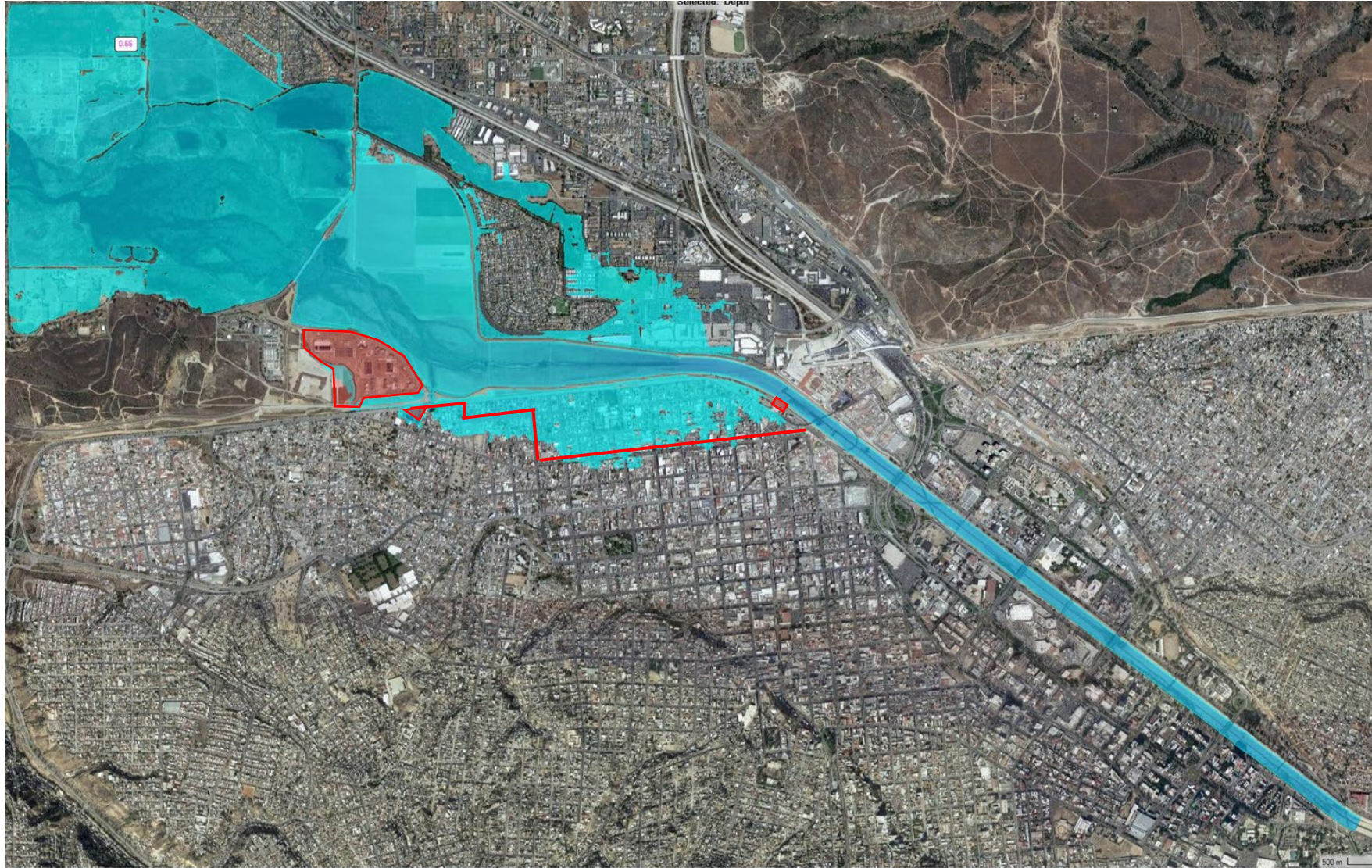
100% Blockage



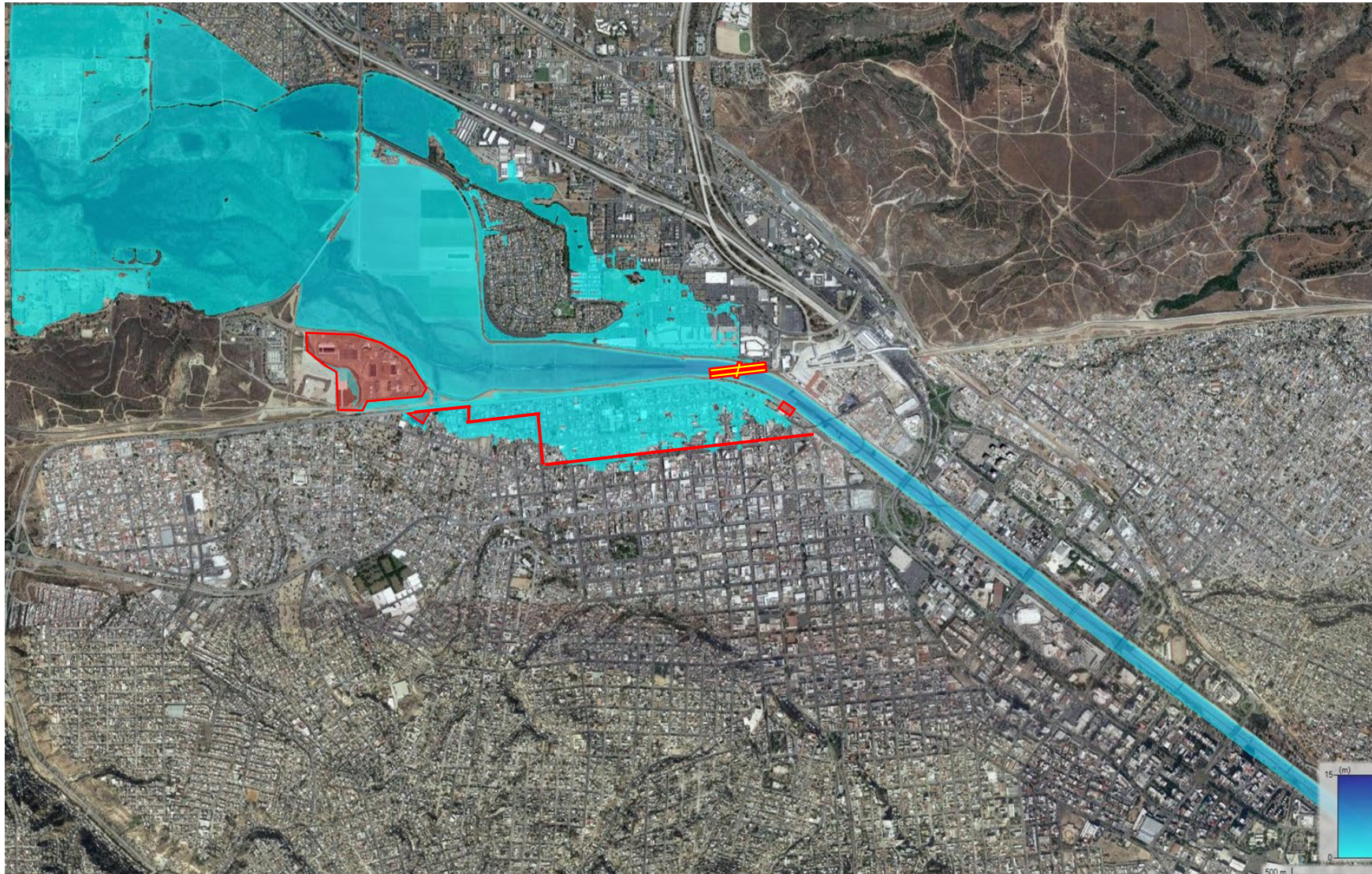
100-yr event, design (no sediment) conditions, no bridge



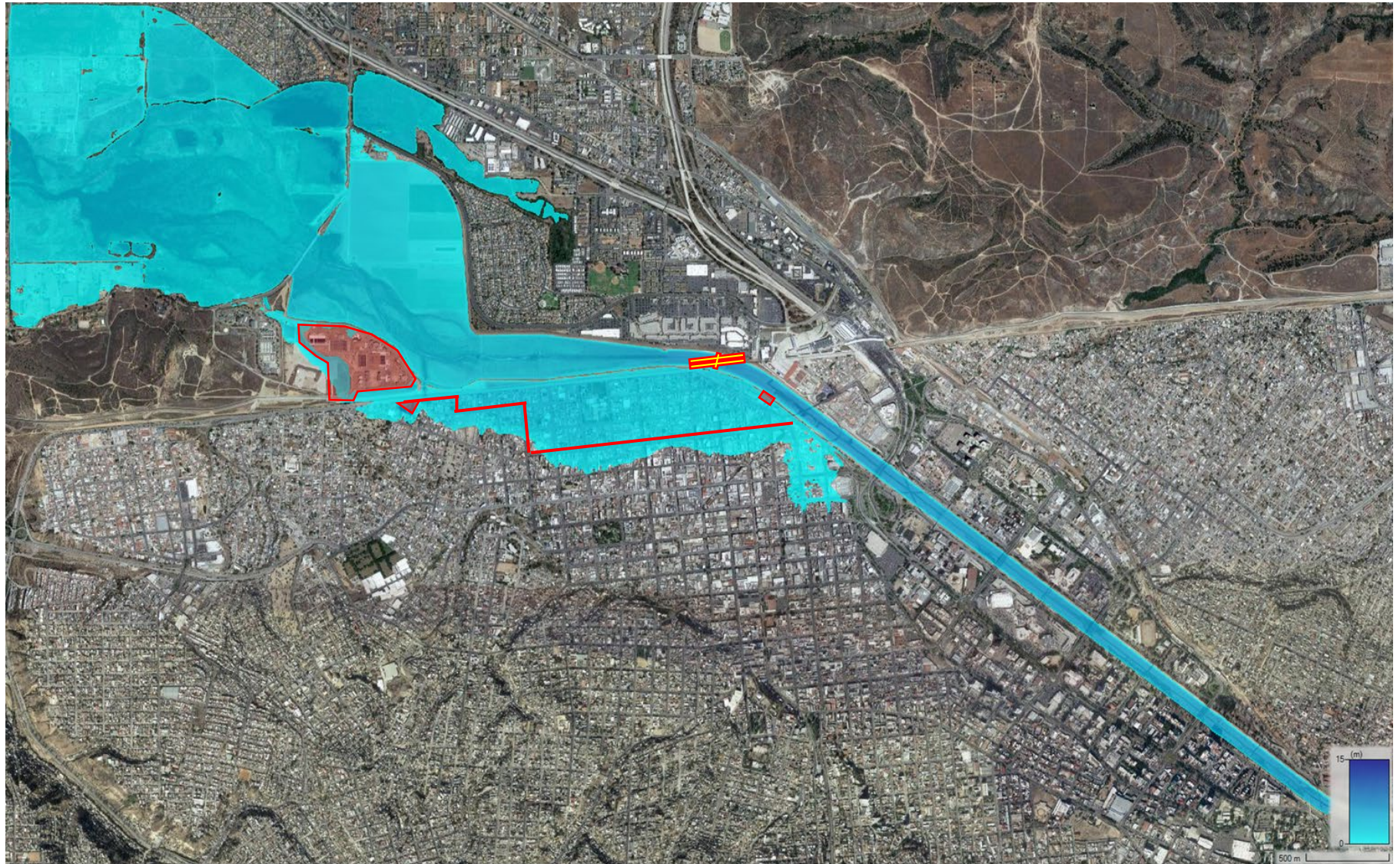
100-yr event, 2014 lidar (sediment), no bridge



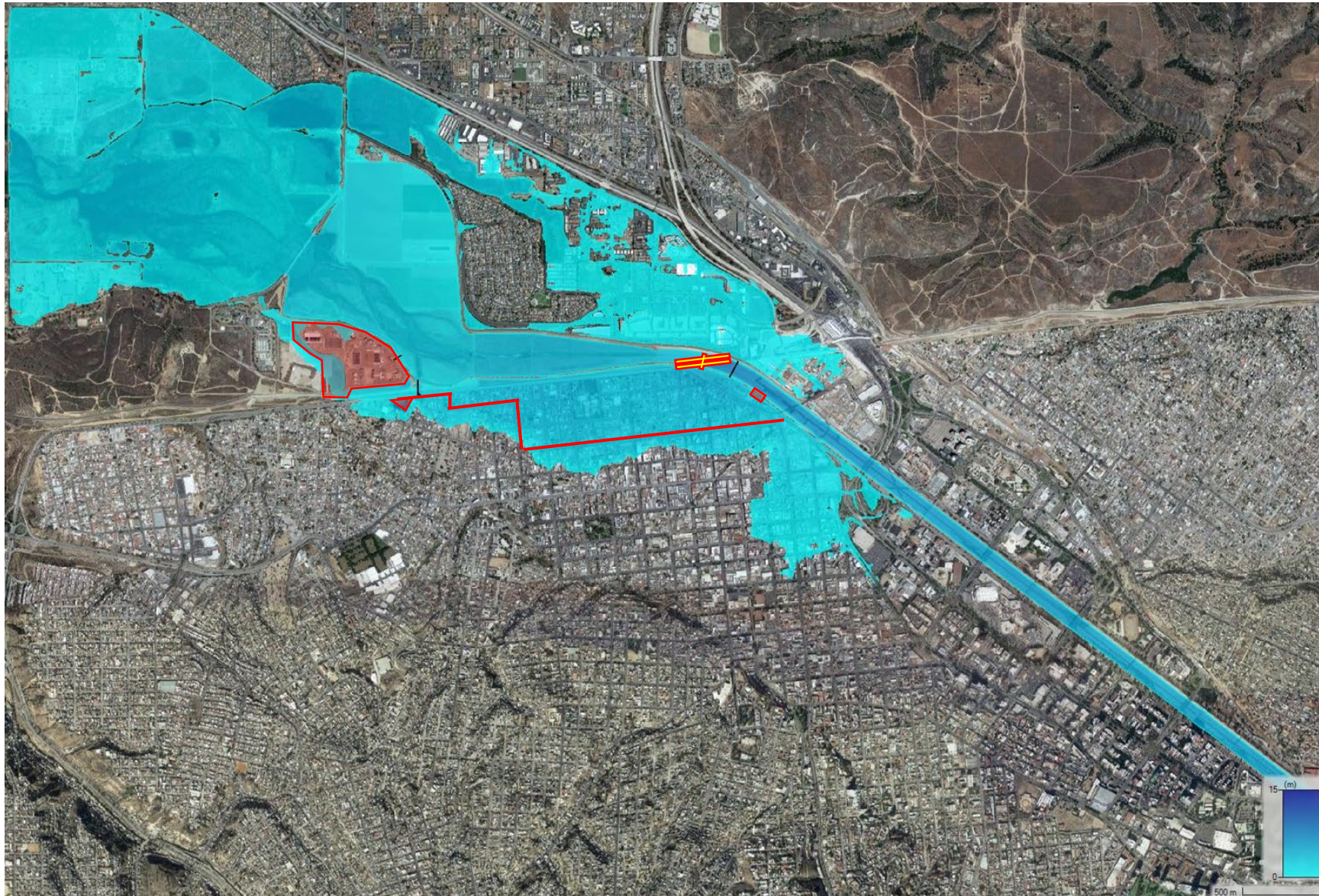
100-yr event, 2014 lidar, gates 0% blocked (entirely lifted)



100-yr event, 2014 lidar, gates 75% blocked



100-yr event, 2014 lidar, gates 100% blocked



Conclusions

Technical Report Tijuana River Border Barrier Flood Hazard Analysis

- Current facilities at ITP are not predicted to be inundated under the modeled scenarios, provided the surrounding levees do not fail.
- Planned infrastructure projects in U.S. and Mexico, especially those adjacent to the border, could be impacted by flooding under certain scenarios.
- Sedimentation in Tijuana River just north of the border contributes to levee overtopping under 100-yr flow conditions, with and without planned border barrier.
- Have shared analysis with CBP and IBWC to inform Border Barrier Project design/construction.

Q & A

Closing Remarks