



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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CONSTRUCTION PROJECT BRINGS TREATMENT PLANT INTO COMPLIANCE

The South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in San Diego, California has begun treating sewage to secondary standards in compliance with the Clean Water Act, following substantial completion of a technology upgrade. The SBIWTP, owned and operated by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), treats up to 25 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater originating in Tijuana, Mexico.

Construction of the upgrade began in January 2009 by contractor PCL Construction of Tempe, Arizona. The contract, totaling \$92.7 million, covered construction of an activated sludge secondary treatment process at the SBIWTP to improve effluent quality. The plant had been providing advanced primary treatment since it was first constructed in 1997. The treated effluent is discharged 3.5 miles offshore into the Pacific Ocean.

The USIBWC was under federal court order to upgrade the plant by January 5, 2011. The secondary treatment facilities became operational in November 2010 and the USIBWC submitted a status report to the court on December 14, 2010 documenting the actions that had been completed fulfilling the commitment. The upgrade is designed to comply with water quality standards applicable in the United States for total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand, and acute and chronic toxicity (which measure the impact of effluent on reproduction and mortality of certain microorganisms). Ongoing sampling shows that the effluent is meeting the standards. The wastewater treatment plant upgrade, which doubles the original plant footprint, was constructed in accordance with existing agreements with Mexico that call for activated sludge secondary treatment facilities in the United States to treat up to 25 mgd of

sewage from Tijuana. In accordance with those agreements, Mexico paid for a portion of the plant's original construction cost and contributes to ongoing operation and maintenance costs. Completion of secondary facilities was delayed due to litigation and funding limitations in the United States.

Construction of the secondary plant is 98% complete but some work is still ongoing on the landscaping and irrigation system, sidewalks, paving, fine tuning of the instrumentation and control system, and punch list items. All construction at the site is scheduled to be completed by April 2011.

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