

For immediate release
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IBWC SIGNS AGREEMENT FOR SAN DIEGO-TIJUANA SANITATION PROJECT

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, has concluded an agreement related to development of secondary wastewater treatment facilities designed to meet the objectives of U.S. Public Law 106-457. The agreement, Minute No. 311, "Recommendations for Secondary Treatment in Mexico of the Sewage Emanating from the Tijuana River Area in Baja California, Mexico," was signed by IBWC U.S. Commissioner Arturo Q. Duran and Mexican Commissioner Arturo Herrera Solis in El Paso, Texas on February 20. The minute requires subsequent approval by the governments of both countries.

The United States Section of the IBWC currently provides treatment of up to 25 million gallons per day of sewage emanating from Tijuana at its South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in San Diego. The plant treats sewage to the advanced primary level with discharge of treated effluent 3.5 miles off the California coast through the South Bay Ocean Outfall. Applicable laws in the United States require secondary treatment of wastewater. Under the terms of Minute No. 311, secondary treatment of the advanced primary effluent from the SBIWTP and treatment of additional Tijuana sewage would be provided as follows, if secondary treatment is not provided in the United States:

- Plant capacity of up to 59 million gallons per day consistent with the Tijuana Master Plan undertaken by EPA and the Tijuana utility (CESPT) to determine the future infrastructure needs through the year 2023

- Effluent discharged through the South Bay Ocean Outfall would comply with applicable water quality laws in the United States
- Project implemented through a private-public partnership
- Commission oversight of selection of contractors and monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the treatment plant as in previous Commission projects

“I am pleased that we have reached agreement with Mexico for a framework to implement the public law,” said U.S. Commissioner Arturo Q. Duran. “This project is a high priority and we intend to begin implementation of this agreement immediately.” Commissioner Duran also noted that the project offers a comprehensive solution to the border sanitation problem at San Diego-Tijuana.

For more information:

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