



International Boundary and Water Commission United States and Mexico

For immediate release
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UPDATE ON DAMAGED PIPELINE AT MATADERO CANYON IN MEXICO

On Saturday, July 30, 2022, CESPT, a wastewater utility in Mexico, had to shut down pump station PB1 due to complications associated with the scheduled repair of a pipeline that resulted in the compromising of pipelines PB1A and PB1B, which convey Tijuana wastewater flows from PB1 to San Antonio de los Buenos Creek and Treatment Plant (SAB), respectively. The cause was a failed air vent device within PB1A pipeline that resulted in uncontrolled flow and subsequent erosion of soil surrounding the pipelines within the slopes of Matadero Canyon in Mexico. PB1A pipeline, a 42” diameter, 25 million gallon per day (MGD) capacity conduit, is intact but of questionable integrity with supporting soil eroded away and damaged internal air vent device. PB1B pipeline, a 54” diameter, 50 million gallon per day (MGD) capacity conduit, has a disconnected section of pipe due to the loss of supporting soil caused by the erosion. Construction is already in progress to reconnect and restore PB1B.

The uncontrolled flow also caused transboundary flows at Smugglers Gulch Canyon Collector. The flows contained vast amounts of sediment which necessitated shutting down Smugglers Gulch Canyon Collector. To stop the uncontrolled flows out of the damaged wastewater lines, PB1 was taken out of service and remains shut down. Transboundary flows at Smugglers Gulch Canyon Collector have stopped and all flows that were being conveyed to SAB from PB1 are now being diverted to the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in San Diego, which is now receiving up to 50 MGD. In addition, PB CILA has been shut down to facilitate repair

of the broken wastewater lines and is not diverting flows to the SBIWPT or PB1, resulting in flows of about 30 MGD remaining in the Tijuana River.

The USIBWC recognizes the urgency of this situation and the need to make repairs to the broken wastewater lines west of PB1 and restore flows to normal as quickly as possible. The U.S. and Mexican Sections of the IBWC met on site today to assess the situation and to develop a plan of action for repairs and to bring the system back online as soon as possible. The USIBWC will provide CESPT with a vacor truck and with a pump. The Acting Principal Engineer of Operations will be in San Diego this week continuously assessing the situation and will provide updates as they develop.

More information will be provided as details develop. Information can be found on the USIBWC Twitter page: [@usibwc](#)

The [International Boundary and Water Commission](#), United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries. In the San Diego-Tijuana area, the Commission is involved with boundary demarcation, Tijuana River flood control, and the operation of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, which treats wastewater from Tijuana, Mexico to U.S. standards.

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