

# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

## San Diego, CA-Tijuana, B.C. Field Offices “Initial Binational Tijuana River Spill Notification Protocol”

1. In accordance with the MOU (to be developed) between the State of Baja California and IBWC Mexican Section, Tijuana office (MXIBWC), the State Public Utility Commission of Tijuana (CESPT) shall notify MXIBWC (via phone, followed with email and/or official letter) within the hour, whenever this is possible, of pump or pipeline failure that CESPT has knowledge of, which can result in raw sewage discharges into the Tijuana River arriving at the International Boundary or at any other location along the international border in the CESPT service area where discharges may enter the US. **Notification information to include: What happened or cause of issue, location, when issue/discharge started (date and time), volume being discharged, action that is being or will be taken to stop discharge and how long expected to repair problem and eliminate the discharge.** MXIBWC will notify USIBWC immediately after receiving notification from CESPT (via phone and/or email) Information to include: **What happened or cause of issue, location, when issue/discharge started (date and time), volume being discharged, action that is being taken or would be taken to stop discharge and how long expected to repair problem and eliminate the discharge.** Notification will be made as soon as possible with any information that is available at the time recognizing that in some cases the full list of information may not be available but will be provided timely when it becomes available.
2. The two Sections of the IBWC, in consultation with the Minute 320 Water Quality Work Group, will continue to update and identify additional situations that require notification under this protocol, which will be established in future Binational Tijuana River Spill Notification Protocols.
3. If a discharge is noted in the river by the U.S. Section of the IBWC (USIBWC) or others in the United States by either visual observation or bacterial sampling and laboratory analysis which indicate the river has a high percentage of untreated wastewater, USIBWC will notify MXIBWC that an apparent spill to the United States has occurred and request the information noted in bold in point No. 1 above. If a response is not received from MXIBWC within 24 hours, USIBWC will request of MXIBWC that a joint binational inspection of the river be conducted to determine the possible location of the release.
4. In the event of occurrence of the events described in points No. 1 or No. 3 above, USIBWC will immediately notify U.S. recipients of USIBWC email list serve developed for these cases. USIBWC will follow the procedures in the NPDES permit for the SBIWTP in filing a spill report, based on information provided by the Mexican Section or, if not available, other information obtained by the USIBWC. Said U.S. spill report will be filed with the San Diego Office of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Waterboards), after first notifying California Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES). The spill report can be amended with CAL OES and the San Diego Waterboards when additional information from MXIBWC is obtained.
5. Upon receiving email notification from MXIBWC, USIBWC staff will confirm receipt of the email (email reply back MXIBWC). If all information from step 1 is not included in the email, the missing information will be requested from MXIBWC.
6. MXIBWC will continue to follow up with CESPT on the progress of actions to resolve the problem and provide USIBWC updates until discharges are discontinued.
7. Upon receiving updates from its Mexican counterpart, USIBWC to email USIBWC list serve recipients with updates until discharges are discontinued. Final U.S. spill report will be filed with the San Diego Waterboards by the USIBWC once spill has ended.
8. MXIBWC to provide follow-up to the incident and will provide, jointly with CESPT, a final summary to USIBWC as well as both delegations (U.S. and Mexican) of the Minute 320 Binational Water Quality Work Group, if considered necessary by both USIBWC and MXIBWC.

9. Members of the Minute 320 Water Quality Work Group shall continue providing recommendations and mutual solutions to IBWC to minimize discharges to the Tijuana River and improve the notification process.
10. The USIBWC samples the Tijuana River in the United States at the Dairy Mart Bridge weekly on Tuesdays when there is flow in the river. The USIBWC will transmit the results of the weekly testing at the bridge to the U.S. stakeholders who are members of the USIBWC's notification list-serve once the results have been received. This is normally on Thursday or Friday of the same week that samples are taken. Results will also be sent to MXIBWC.