



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
UNITED STATES SECTION

March 13, 2025

Dear Stakeholders:

Here is the latest update regarding our monitoring of Mexico's International Collector project:

Despite the heavy rain today, there were no structural problems with the Tijuana River levees or the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mexico has placed sandbags around the International Collector bypass to prevent street flooding and keep sewage out of the river. These 24/7 efforts have so far proven successful.

As I mentioned yesterday, a collapsed 36-inch collector ("Sanchez Taboada") was discovered about 1-1/4 miles (2 kilometers) upstream of the bypass, sending 3.4 million gallons a day (MGD) of wastewater into the Tijuana River.

Although this flow represents a small fraction of the river's total, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has requested Mexico investigate ways to stop this flow from reaching the river while the collector is repaired.

Mexico has agreed to look into this.

EPA-funded real-time monitoring of the river indicates very low concentrations of sewage in the river due to dilution by the rainfall.

The USIBWC and EPA will continue to meet virtually with Mexico every morning.

We also plan to arrange another in-person meeting and site inspection with Mexico soon.

If you missed my letter and photos about our site visit to the International Collector yesterday, you can catch up here: <https://www.ibwc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/USIBWC-Statement-on-Transboundary-Flows-3-12-2025.pdf>

(Our X site is a good place to check for updates: <https://x.com/usibwc>)

Warm regards,

Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E.  
*Commissioner (U.S. Section)*  
*International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico*  
*United States Section*