



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
UNITED STATES SECTION

July 24, 2025

**USIBWC Commissioner Statement on Tijuana River Sewage  
Memorandum of Understanding**

*Statement by W. C. “Chad” McIntosh, P.E., Commissioner (U.S. Section), International Boundary and Water Commission, on today’s signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States and Mexico to address and solve the Tijuana River sewage crisis:*

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) thanks President Trump and EPA Administrator Zeldin for their leadership that resulted in today’s Memorandum of Understanding being signed in Mexico City.

This agreement is a major step toward achieving the Trump Administration’s goal of a long-lasting, comprehensive solution to the Tijuana River pollution crisis.

The USIBWC is committed to protecting Americans from exposure to Mexican sewage.

In May, shortly after EPA Administrator Zeldin visited the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, we announced the acceleration of the incremental expansion of the plant’s capacity from 25 to 35 million gallons per day (MGD): [https://www.ibwc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/SBIWTP-Fast-Track-Expansion-05-19-25\\_Final.pdf](https://www.ibwc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/SBIWTP-Fast-Track-Expansion-05-19-25_Final.pdf)

Originally planned to take two years, this critical expansion is now on track for completion in just 100 days, due to the aggressive leadership of the Trump Administration.

We also have speeded up our originally announced plans to double the plant’s capacity to at least 50 MGD. This is now scheduled to be done by December 2027.

At the same time, we are holding Mexico accountable for their commitments to improve their sanitation infrastructure. During my regular meetings with high-ranking Mexican officials, I have made it very clear the United States has no patience for further delays.

The USIBWC is grateful for the support of the Trump Administration, EPA Administrator Zeldin, and all our federal, state, local, and community stakeholders as we work together to finally solve this problem with the sense of urgency it deserves.

The MOU: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-07/proy-mde-semarnat-epa-23jul25-ing-rev2-us-rev-24jul25rev-clcsc.pdf>

Here is a link to an EPA press release: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/united-states-and-mexico-reach-agreement-permanently-and-urgently-end-decades-long>