



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

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COMMISSIONER MCINTOSH MARKS FIRST YEAR AT USIBWC WITH RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is marking one year under Commissioner Chad McIntosh, P.E., with major gains in protecting border communities from sewage and flooding and ensuring more reliable water deliveries.

In the past year, USIBWC engineers and project teams expanded the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) by 40 percent in only 100 days, significantly increasing the agency's ability to remove harmful bacteria and pollutants before they reach U.S. beaches and neighborhoods.

The Commission also secured new binational agreements that require Mexico to build and operate critical sanitation infrastructure on strict timelines, reducing cross-border sewage flows and lowering health risks from contaminated water and air.

“USIBWC exists to protect people, property, and water resources along the U.S.-Mexico border,” said **Commissioner McIntosh**. “Over the past year, our staff have moved quickly to strengthen wastewater treatment, secure fair water deliveries for U.S. farmers and communities, and reduce flood risks in both countries.”

Working with the White House and key partners in the Trump Administration, notably Administrator Lee Zeldin of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Secretary Marco Rubio of the Department of State, and Secretary Brooke Rollins of the Department of Agriculture, USIBWC has advanced its treaty responsibilities with Mexico to reflect America's priorities for clean water, robust infrastructure, and safe border communities.

In addition to urgent work to address the decades-long Tijuana River sewage crisis, the Commission is helping ensure equitable allocations of water from the Colorado and Rio Grande rivers, efficiently maintaining and operating critical flood control works, and reducing border flood hazards.

Commissioner McIntosh was appointed on April 19, 2025, by President Donald Trump. He previously served at EPA as Assistant Administrator for the Office of International and Tribal Affairs and then as EPA's Assistant Administrator.

USIBWC is an engineer-led, project-oriented agency that oversees an infrastructure portfolio of almost \$7 billion along the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border.

The Commission operates and maintains more than 145,000 acres; over 500 miles of river and floodway levees; 20,000 acres of floodplains; 700 hydraulic structures; 100 hydrographic gaging

stations; four diversion dams; two international storage dams with hydroelectric power plants; two international wastewater treatment facilities; and two international bridges.

Results Over the Past Year

- Reached a U.S.-Mexico understanding that Mexico will meet its current water delivery obligations to Texas farmers and ranchers and repay its outstanding water deficit under the 1944 Water Treaty.
- Completed major construction at SBIWTP, adding 10 million gallons per day of treatment capacity in just 100 days—far ahead of the original two-year schedule—so more sewage is treated before reaching U.S. waters.
- Advanced design work to expand the plant to 50 million gallons per day; the design is almost 90 percent complete and is expected to be finished by the end of the year.
- Signed Minute 333, a formal agreement that obligates Mexico to construct new sanitation infrastructure in Tijuana, properly operate and maintain existing and new facilities, and adopt best practices for wastewater and stormwater management consistent with U.S. standards.
- Participated in a Memorandum of Understanding among USIBWC, EPA, and Mexico’s Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources to set out coordinated steps to stop sewage flows through the Tijuana River Basin.
- Conducted a pilot project using ozone nanobubble technology to kill bacteria and reduce odors from sewage in a portion of the Tijuana River while longer-term infrastructure is built.
- Supported Administration efforts to enhance security along the U.S.-Mexico border through the National Defense Area program, including on USIBWC property.

“None of this work happens without the dedication of USIBWC engineers, operators, scientists, and field staff,” **Commissioner McIntosh** said. “Over the next year, we will keep pressing forward on the Tijuana River sewage crisis, modernizing our aging infrastructure, and making sure the treaties we administer continue to protect public health and environmental quality for future generations.”

For more information:



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