



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

For Immediate Release
June 2, 2026

USIBWC HANDLES HEAVY WASTEWATER FLOWS DURING TIJUANA PIPELINE REPAIR

The South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant is capturing and treating excessive sanitation flows from Tijuana along with the transboundary flows arriving at its canyon collectors due to the collapse in the Parallel Gravity Line that conveys wastewater in Tijuana.

The plant, designed to treat 35 million gallons a day (MGD), sustained flows above 45 MGD for 13 hours and peaks above 60 MGD for nine hours over the weekend — well above its design capacity.

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) continues to implement proactive measures to stop and reduce flows at the canyon collectors with additional staff and equipment.

These collectors intercept and divert dry-weather transboundary flows and sewage originating from Mexico to the South Bay plant.

USIBWC is pressing Mexico to complete repairs to the pipeline as quickly as possible to stop excess flows to the plant and the Tijuana River Channel.

The flows into the river are expected to cause an increase in stronger odors in the area.

USIBWC has been in regular contact with Mexico since the pipeline collapse was reported Friday night. Mexico says the repairs are expected to take several days.

This latest pipeline collapse drives home the importance of Minute 333 and the binational Memorandum of Understanding signed last year which sets a strict timeline for Mexico to rehabilitate its Parallel Gravity Line and make other infrastructure upgrades.

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Photo courtesy of Mexican Section of the IBWC (CILA)