

# Opportunities for US-MX Collaboration on Tijuana River



United by the border, San Diego shares a watershed with Tijuana. Any sewage flows from Tijuana's tightly packed neighborhoods that are not captured and sent for treatment risk ending up downstream on regional beaches. Rain places additional pressure on sewage pipes, many of which need of replacement. Concrete solutions have been outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), North American Development Bank (NADBank), and other stakeholders, identifying wastewater treatment, pollution, and water conservation infrastructure projects that will help mitigate pollution and reduce transboundary flows.

## ONGOING U.S.-MEXICO COMMITMENT TO TRANSBOUNDARY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Great milestones have been achieved on both sides of the border. Mexico has completed the expansion of the San Antonio de los Buenos Treatment Plant. On the U.S. side, significant progress has been made through federal appropriations and ongoing improvements to the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, yet challenges remain. Continued investment, coordination with Mexico, and sustained advocacy are essential to ensure long-term, reliable solutions for both sides of the border.



**40%**

INCREASE IN  
POPULATION  
ANTICIPATED BY  
2050



**76%**

TIJUANA'S SEWER  
NETWORK WAS  
FOUND IN CRITICAL  
CONDITION IN 2020

## BENEFITS:

Effective collaboration between the United States and Mexico can produce significant benefits for both countries, supporting economic growth and environmental sustainability. The primary benefits include:



REDUCE BEACH  
CLOSURES AND  
STIMULATE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT &  
TOURISM



REDUCES RISK OF U.S.-IMPOSED  
TARIFFS, MAKING THE REGION  
ATTRACTIVE FOR INVESTMENTS  
& PROMOTING LONG-TERM  
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES



REDUCE MEXICO'S  
RELiance ON COSTLY AND  
LESS DEPENDABLE WATER  
SOURCES, INCREASING  
THE REGION'S WATER  
SUPPLY



DECREASE PUBLIC  
HEALTH THREATS AND  
IMPROVE QUALITY OF  
LIFE OF RESIDENTS



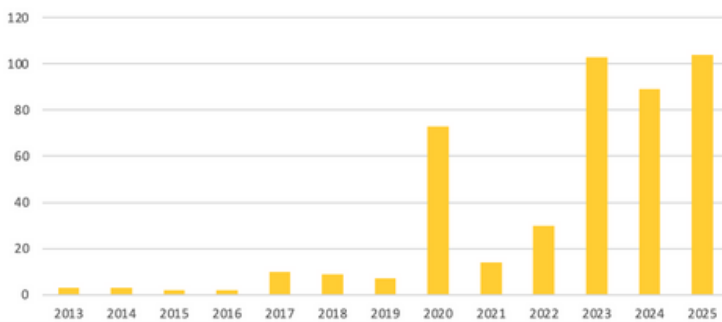
## INFRASTRUCTURE & FUNDING FOR MEXICO PRIORITIES

- [Close the \\$84M funding gap](#) under Minute 328 and strengthen state capacity to implement projects (CONAGUA/CESPT).
- [Repair and relocate 10MGD](#) of effluent from [Arturo Herrera](#) and [La Morita](#) plants to remove flows from the river (CONAGUA/CESPT).
- [Improve revenue collection](#) (currently 82%) to sustain operations and maintenance (CESPT).
- [Adopt a 20-year capital investment](#) plan for Tijuana and Tecate wastewater infrastructure (CONAGUA CESPT).

## PLANNING, GOVERNANCE, AND TRANSPARENCY ACTIONS:

- [Resume annual reporting](#) of water management indicators (CESPT)
- [Advance water reuse projects](#) to strengthen water supply sustainability (CONAGUA/CESPT).
- [Set a measurable goal](#) to return Tijuana River [dry-weather flows to pre-2017 levels](#) (CONAGUA/CESPT).
- [Reestablish industrial pretreatment partnership](#) with the City of San Diego to reduce pollutants (CESPT/City of SD).

Days/year of Dry-Weather\* Transboundary Flows in Tijuana River  
\*Flows in TJ River > 1 mgd, no rain 2 weeks prior, 2025 only includes Jan-Aug.



Number of Transboundary Flow Days per Year (excluding rainy days and 14 days after rain events)

## Next Steps

- Two-year implementation budget and strategy for Minute 328 (CONAGUA/CESPT).
- Publish 2025 "Operational Indicators Report" by March 2026 (SEPROA/CESPT).
- Quarterly progress updates to the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce on timelines, financing, and project milestones (CESPT).