

U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement Section 821



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USMCA Mandate

Address Transboundary Pollution Impacts to the U.S.

- Plan, design, and construct infrastructure
- Focus Area - Tijuana River watershed
- Resources: \$300M
- Funding Mechanism: EPA's Border Water Infrastructure Program

USMCA Implementation Strategy

Guiding Principles

- Comprehensive Solution for Tijuana River Watershed
 - Value Engineering
 - Environmental Review
- Expedited and Objective Process
 - Builds on existing work by federal, state, and local organizations
 - Utilizes proven mechanisms – EPA’s Border Water Infrastructure Program
- Transparent Engagement and Consultation
 - USMCA Eligible Public Entities
 - Expert Technical Consultations
 - Broad Stakeholder engagement

Value Engineering

Goal: Identify critical information to make project selection

Project Evaluation Criteria

- Effectiveness in reducing U.S.-side environmental and human health impacts
- Technical Feasibility
- Financial Feasibility
- Regulatory Feasibility
- Implementation Timeline
- Operations and Maintenance

Value Engineering (Cont.)

Builds on Previous Work

➤ Tijuana River Diversion Study

North American Development Bank screening-level analysis of project alternatives in both the United States and Mexico.

➤ Senate Bill (SB) 507 Needs & Opportunities Assessment

San Diego County's screening-level alternatives in the main Tijuana River channel, the Tijuana River watershed, and Canyon Drainages, within the United States.

➤ CONAGUA Priority Projects

CONAGUA priority projects in Mexico, in consultation with CILA and Tijuana's water utility (CESPT).

Range of Projects Being Assessed

- Build a new River Diversion and Treatment System in the U.S.
- Expand existing TJ River diversion in Mexico and treat in U.S.
- Expand IBWC Plant Capacity - accept more TJ Sewage to reduce U.S. Impacts via TJ River and Surf Discharge
- Repair Infrastructure in Tijuana to Eliminate Untreated Flows
- Wastewater reuse in Mexico
- Infrastructure in U.S. to capture & remove trash and sediment
- Others

Projected Implementation Process

- Project feasibility & Environmental screening (underway)
- Project selection by EPA Administrator (Spring, 2021)
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Financial delivery method and cost-share determination (concurrent with NEPA process)
- Final Design
- Construction
- Operation and maintenance

Consultation and Engagement

Interagency Consultation Group: *Provides input on overarching USMCA implementation*

USEPA

US IBWC

US Army Corps of Engineers

North American Development Bank

DOS – Consulate General of Tijuana

Customs and Border Protection

Navy

DOI/FWS

Commerce/NOAA

State of CA – EPA/Water Quality Board

State of CA – Natural Resources Agency

San Diego Port Commission

San Diego County

City of Coronado

City of Imperial Beach

City of Chula Vista

City of San Diego

➤ Convenes ~ monthly

Consultation and Engagement (Cont.)

Technical Expert Consultation: *Focus on technical and engineering evaluation of proposed projects*

- EPA, EPA Contractor, and NADBank will work closely with technical experts on both sides of border to:
 - Develop timely, accurate, and objective information
 - Identify issues, solutions, and recommendations
 - Leverage existing data to avoid duplication and maximize efficiency

- Reports on progress to the Interagency Consultation Group and the Public

Consultation and Engagement (Cont.)

- Stakeholder Engagement
 - Regular public information webinars and meetings
 - Developing Platform(s) to share information
- Coordination with Mexico (Federal, State, Local)

QUESTIONS
&
COMMENTS
