



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States and Mexico

For immediate release  
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### COMMISSION ADDRESSES TRANSBOUNDARY WASTEWATER FLOWS AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA – TIJUANA, BAJA CALIFORNIA

On February 15, 2023, U.S. Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner, Mexican Commissioner Adriana Resendez, and staff from both Sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) conducted a webinar meeting with Victor Amador, head of the State Public Services Commission of Tijuana (CESPT) to discuss a pipeline rupture in Tijuana that is contributing to transboundary wastewater flows into the United States.

During the meeting, Director Amador advised that work is underway to make the necessary repairs, with a target of halting transboundary flows related to the pipeline failure by February 22. CESPT staff and contractors are currently working 18 hours per day to address the problem.

The problem began February 10 after a private developer inadvertently damaged a 60-inch pipeline south of Tijuana. Due to this damage, CESPT had to shut down pumping stations in its wastewater conveyance system, leading to transboundary flow in the canyons along the U.S.-Mexico border and Tijuana River as well as discharge of wastewater to the coast in Mexico. CESPT expects to divert the flow from the damaged 60-inch line into a parallel pipeline by February 22, and is currently inspecting and stabilizing this secondary pipeline with concrete as the ground beneath and around it had eroded. CESPT currently has sufficient staff, material, and equipment to complete the diversion to the parallel line. At the same time, CESPT is making arrangements to fix the 60-inch line. This repair is expected to be completed early in the following week.

To assist, the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), in coordination with the Mexican Section of the Commission, immediately loaned a Vector truck to Mexican officials to clean out the ruptured pipeline and prepare it for repairs. Additional equipment, to include pumps and excavators, is available, if needed, to further support the repairs and bring the pipeline back into operation. The USIBWC is also treating additional volumes of wastewater at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The February 15 meeting with CESPT follows a meeting convened February 14 at USIBWC Headquarters with the IBWC Commissioners and engineers from both Sections at which they pledged to work in close cooperation to support CESPT in its repair efforts. The two Sections of the IBWC continue to coordinate to support timely completion of repairs, monitor the situation, and provide updates to stakeholders.

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