



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

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USIBWC COMPLETES \$18 MILLION EXPANSION PROJECT AT SOUTH BAY INTERNATIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has completed an infrastructure improvement project to expand the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in San Diego, CA with three additional sedimentation tanks, two offline equalization tanks, and the replacement of the return activated sludge pumps. The project cost was \$18.2 million and was constructed by Pacific Hydrotech Corporation. Work began on April 6, 2016 and was completed in July 2018.

The plant treats 25 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater from Tijuana, Mexico to U.S. standards, to the benefit of coastal water quality and public health in Southern California and Mexico. The treated sewage flows through an outfall for discharge into the Pacific Ocean on the U.S. side. The SBIWTP became fully operational in 1999, providing advanced primary treatment. Secondary treatment improvements became operational in 2011 for an average of 25 million gallons (MGD) of sewage per day. The latest project is in addition to the \$335 million in capital expenditures by the U.S. government since 1991 to construct the SBIWTP and associated infrastructure.

"This upgrade and expansion will allow the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant to be more efficient and flexible as we continue to operate the plant and meet our discharge permit requirements," said Dawi Dakhil, Construction Project Engineer, USIBWC.

The expansion of the secondary sedimentation tanks and upgrades to the pump station will provide additional capacity and efficiency for the treatment of peak flows. The equalization tanks will also allow the plant to store and release wastewater flows at a constant rate from the primary to secondary process and assist in managing the secondary treatment facilities during peak flows.

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