



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

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### **ADVANCING BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO CLEAN WATER IN COMMUNITIES, USIBWC AWARDS CONTRACT FOR SBIWTP REHABILITATION AND EXPANSION**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has awarded a contract for the design and construction of the rehabilitation and expansion of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in San Diego, California. The first phase, in the amount of \$42.4 million, covers design for the full scope of the rehabilitation and expansion of SBIWTP and anticipates bringing clean, safe water to local communities. The USIBWC awarded the contract to PCL Construction (PCL) of Long Beach, California. PCL selected Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec), of San Diego, as the design firm.

The project includes essential rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and capacity expansion to double current treatment capacity of 25 million gallons per day (MGD) to reach 50 MGD average flow, with a peak hydraulic flow capacity of 75 MGD. This project is consistent with the binational agreement known as Minute No. 328, "Sanitation Infrastructure Projects in San Diego, California-Tijuana, Baja California for Immediate Implementation and for Future Development." The project is issued in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is implemented consistent with the 2020 United States-Mexico-Canada Implementation Act, and also funded from USIBWC's annual appropriations. The project is also consistent with the supplemental funding requested by the Biden-Harris Administration in 2023. The plant's expansion, in combination with wastewater infrastructure improvements in Mexico under Minute 328, is intended to eliminate up to 90% of untreated wastewater reaching the coast, providing cleaner, safer water for local communities. Continued partnership between the United States and Mexico is critical to reduce transboundary flows of untreated wastewater.

The project was awarded using the Progressive Design-Build contract delivery method consistent with government contracting practices and regulations. This contract delivery method allows for phasing construction to meet the project goals based on available funding, shortens the construction schedule, minimizes cost risks, and integrates input from construction experts during the design phase to increase quality and reduce the need for change orders. The USIBWC anticipates design to be completed in 20 months. The maximum timeline for construction is 5 years. The contractor expects to decrease this timeline by as much as 18 months through the innovative progressive design-build approach. The plant will remain in operation throughout design and construction.

The USIBWC anticipates providing more definitive estimates of the full project cost and the construction schedule once the project reaches the 30% to 60% design stage and plans to issue early construction packages during the design phase to enable some early construction work to start in 2024. A key part of the early construction packages is site preparation work, including excavating the Primary Sedimentation Tanks, relocating the site fence, and installing shoring to protect utilities. The full project cost, including design, construction, contingencies, project management, and other support services, is estimated at \$600 million.

“Addressing the water quality of the estuary, beach closures, and public health concerns of South Bay residents is a priority for the IBWC,” said Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E., USIBWC Commissioner.

“The Biden-Harris Administration’s requests for the additional funding necessary to complete the rehabilitation and expansion of our plant demonstrate this priority is shared throughout the Administration. We plan to provide updates on a regular basis at our Citizens Forum meetings, on the data portal located on the IBWC website

<https://gisportal.ibwc.gov/agsportal/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=042ae0c0255b4dd0a6364581ef55ef5e>, and through other stakeholder engagements. We look forward to continuing the strong partnerships with the affected communities and local, state, and federal officials, as well as NGO representatives.”

“The Biden-Harris Administration’s \$42.5 million contract award to upgrade the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant accelerates progress toward a clean water future for residents

and businesses in San Diego County,” said Bruno Pigott, EPA Acting Assistant Administrator for Water. “EPA recognizes that clean and safe water is essential to healthy people, vibrant ecosystems, and business opportunities. That’s why we are working with federal agencies, our state co-regulators, and local partners to strengthen water infrastructure across the country while creating family-sustaining jobs in the process.”

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