



Mexico Agrees to Meet Water Treaty Obligations for Farmers in the American Southwest

The United States and Mexico reached an understanding to meet the current water obligations of American farmers and ranchers and for Mexico to repay the water deficit in Texas as part of the 1944 Water Treaty. This agreement extends to the current cycle and the previous cycle's water deficit.

Mexico agreed to release 202,000-acre feet of water to the United States with deliveries to begin the week of December 15, 2025. Timely repayment of the outstanding deficit from the previous water cycle is understood by Mexico. The United States and Mexico are in negotiations to finalize a plan by the end of January 2026.

Commissioner McIntosh and his team are actively involved in these negotiations alongside the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of State.

South Bay Plant Breakthrough: Rapid Expansion Hits 10 MGD Milestone



On August 28, 2025, USIBWC completed major construction at SBIWTP, delivering 10 MGD of additional treatment capacity in just 100 days.

Key accomplishments include:

- Reestablished Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment (CEPT) to provide advanced primary treatment for up to 35 MGD, a net incremental increase of 10 MGD.
- Installed additional solids handling, thickening, and dewatering equipment to support higher flows.
- Modified the South Bay Ocean Outfall to support blended effluent discharge.
- Successful coordination with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board for the permit increase.
- Completed O&M contract modification for increase.
- Coordination with Mexico for delivering increase.

Nanobubble Ozone Pilot Project:

- USIBWC successfully completed a small pilot project that tested ozone nanobubble technology to kill bacteria and eliminate odors in Tijuana River sewage flows.
- Working with contractor Green Water Solutions LLC of Ohio, USIBWC conducted the pilot project from September 9 to October 15, 2025, just downstream of the international boundary.
- The project demonstrated that ozone nanobubble technology has the capability to kill bacteria and eliminate odors associated with sewage.

Binational Coordination & Agreements

Tijuana River Basin – Stopping Mexican Sewage MOU

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed July 2025 in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), and the International Boundary and Water Commission U.S. and Mexican Sections.
- Includes steps to address and stop the flow of sewage through the Tijuana River Basin, with the agreement reinforcing the commitment of both nations to establish a joint plan.

Minute 333 Signing

- Minute 333, signed on December 15, 2025, details specific actions to address binational sanitation concerns at San Diego, CA and Tijuana, MX to include:
- Creation of a Binational Work Group – undertake a series of technical studies and evaluations.
 - Construction of a sediment basin in Matadero Canyon, MX.
 - Construction of Tijuana's new "Tecolote-La Gloria" wastewater treatment plant.
 - Development of a schedule for clearing and removing sediment and solid waste from Tijuana River channel
 - Coordinate with a binational O&M work group to develop strategies to ensure proper maintenance of the region's sanitation infrastructure.

Technology and Innovation

- Implementation of management tools such as C-ME (Customer Management Engine), which provides field offices with intuitive dashboards to track Purchase Requests (PRs), contract details, and key budget data. This tool enables the USIBWC to better manage cost center budgets, key contracts, and financial data to cut costs.
- AI Integration: Implemented generative AI tools, significantly reducing time spent on research and administrative workflows.
- Network Upgrades: Expanded bandwidth and wireless capabilities at remote sites to ensure reliable agency-wide connectivity.
- Nanobubbles Pilot Project to reduce toxic gas from the air in the Tijuana River Valley by pumping ozone bubble to breakdown contaminants.
- Critical upgrades at Falcon, including a new AVR/Exciter system, modernized generator control boards, and a rebuilt 75-ton crane, boosted reliability and enabled significant power generation as part of the 48,200 MWh delivered in FY25.
- Amistad's enhancements, such as replacing wicket gate seals and installing advanced digital protection relays, ensured safe and efficient operations contributing to the combined 48,200 MWh output in FY25.

Where Water Meets Security: USIBWC's Impact on National Defense



National Defense Area (NDA)

Realty, GIS, Survey and Legal Office collaborated with the military and Border Patrol to provide:

- Ownership and Realty documents
- GIS databases, coordinates and maps for the NDA delineation and buoy placements in the Rio Grande and lakes
- NDA 2 (El Paso to Fort Hancock): ~63 miles (USIBWC land)
- NDA 3 (Hidalgo & Cameron Counties): ~250 miles (USIBWC Beds & Banks)

NDA zones were established along the international boundary between United States and Mexico to strengthen national security operations.

Minute 332 – Amistad Dam Composite Cutoff Wall

Minute 332 authorizes construction of a 1.6-mile composite cutoff wall to cut off flow through and under the dam to address the Mexican portion of the dam's earthen embankment in areas impacted by sinkholes and seepage. This is a collaborative effort between the U.S. and Mexico Sections, and their technical advisors, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and CONAGUA.

Status:

- 90% design complete
- Award construction FY 2027

Benefits include the following:

- Preserves the structural safety of Amistad Dam
- Reduces the risk of failure to a tolerable level
- Protects dam integrity and downstream communities

Government Accountability

These major infrastructure investments reflect our ongoing commitment to responsible government stewardship, ensuring transparent, efficient, and accountable delivery of critical water, wastewater, flood control, safety, and asset management projects across the region.

Major Projects

South Bay International WTP Expansion – 100 Day Delivery

- Design of 10 MGD Capacity Incremental Increase
- Construction of 10 MGD Capacity Increase
- Early Work Package - Grit Facility Rehabilitation

US-Mexico-Canada Agreement Ozone Support Project

- Nanobubble Ozone Pilot Project

Treatment of Tijuana Sewage

- Del Sol Canyon Collector
- Hollister and Goat Canyon Pump Stations
- Belt Filter Presses #1–4

Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant:

- Fourth Bioreactor, Sludge Dryer

Safety of Dams:

- Amistad Dam Penstock 5 Construction
- Amistad Dam Composite Cutoff Wall Design
- Anzalduas Dam Bridge Study & Truss Support Design

Rio Grande Flood Control:

- Brownsville Levee Failure Construction

Deferred Maintenance and Repairs:

- Arroyo Colorado Dredging Design

Asset Management & Capital Plan:

- Permanent Operating Equipment Asset Mgt Plan
- Gaging Stations Asset Mgt Plan

Critical Infrastructure Protection:

- South Bay International WTP Security System
- Nogales International WTP Security System

Heavy Equipment Replacement:

- 21 Pieces

Prevented Transboundary Flows:

- In excess of 1.2 billion gallons