EPA ROLE IN THE TIJUANA RIVER WATERSHED

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD HEARING

JUNE 21, 2017
COLLECTOR COLLAPSE IN JANUARY, 2017

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IMPACTS THROUGHOUT SAN DIEGO COUNTY

- Beach closures from Imperial Beach to Coronado.
- Letters from members of Congress and the State of California.
  - Economic damage
  - Health impacts to U.S. Border Patrol & U.S. Navy
- Citizen protests and anger.
BINATIONAL COOPERATION

• International Boundary and Water Commission
  • Under Department of State
  • 1944 Water Treaty
    • Minutes 283 and 320 on Tijuana
• EPA-SEMARNAT
  • 1983 La Paz Agreement
  • Establishes increased transparency and stakeholder engagement (Border 2020 Program)
  • Annex 1 addresses Tijuana wastewater issue
CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR BORDER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

• International Treatment Plant
  • Treats Tijuana wastewater in U.S.
  • $240 million in EPA funding
  • 13 mgd of sewage eliminated

• Border Water Infrastructure Program
  • Administered by North American Development Bank
  • Funds water infrastructure in U.S. and Mexico
    • Attracts Mexican funding to border
  • $50 million for projects in Tijuana
    • 33,000 connections
    • 125 miles of sewer collectors
Wet-weather: Tijuana River flows exceed 23 mgd and PS CILA/Diverter is shut down.
NEXT STEPS

Fix:
• Develop new WW infrastructure projects through BEIF program
• Work on “Wastewater and Reuse Strategic Plan” for Tijuana

Study:
• Measure fate and transport, and level of contamination (Scripps, SCCWRP)
• Inspect Tijuana’s WW system (both physical and virtual)
• Finalize EPA Sediment Model for GC

Communicate:
• Via Border 2020/Recovery Team, IBWC Minute 320 Workgroups
• Improve partnership w/ Border Patrol
COMPARISON ON RAINFALL FREQUENCY OF 2000-2005 VS 2011-2016
(SHORTER DRY SEASONS, OR NON-EXISTENT)
RECENT EPA INVESTMENT IN TIJUANA COLLECTORS

Phase I
- Nearly Complete
- Mexico: $4M
- U.S.: $3M
- 10 km repaired
- 30 manholes rehabilitate

Phase II- Poniente
- In Design
- Total estimated cost: $3M