

# Tijuana River Stakeholders Meeting

June 2, 2020

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*USMCA Implementation Strategy*

# Guiding Principles

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- Comprehensive Solution for Tijuana River Watershed
  - Value Engineering
  - Environmental Review
- Expedited and Objective Process
  - Builds on existing work by federal, state, and local organizations
  - Utilizes proven mechanisms – EPA’s Border Water Infrastructure Program
- Transparent Engagement and Consultation
  - USMCA Public Entities
  - Expert Technical Consultations
  - Broad Stakeholder engagement

# Value Engineering

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Goal: Identify critical information to make project selection

## *Key Evaluation Criteria*

- Effectiveness in reducing beach advisories & impacts on border patrol and Navy SEAL operations
- Environmental benefits & public health protection
- Source and type of pollution
- Time-frame to Construct
- O&M, Engineering and regulatory feasibility, Leveraging
- Other

*Value Engineering (Cont.)*

# Builds on Previous Work

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➤ Tijuana River Diversion Study

*North American Development Bank screening-level analysis of project alternatives in both the United States and Mexico.*

➤ Senate Bill (SB) 507 Needs & Opportunities Assessment

*San Diego County's screening-level alternatives in the main Tijuana River channel, the Tijuana River watershed, and Canyon Drainages, within the United States.*

➤ CONAGUA Priority Projects

*CONAGUA priority projects in Mexico, in consultation with CILA and Tijuana's water utility (CESPT).*

# Range of Projects to Be Assessed

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- New TJ River diversion & treatment in U.S.
- Expand existing TJ River diversion in Mexico and treat in U.S.
- Expand SBIWTP treatment capacity to reduce U.S. Impacts (via TJ River and Surf Discharge)
- Wastewater reuse in Mexico and at SBIWTP
- Infrastructure in U.S. to capture & remove trash and sediment
- Others

# Projected Implementation Process

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- Value engineering & Environmental screening
- Project selection by EPA Administrator
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Financial delivery method and cost-share determination  
(concurrent with NEPA process)
- Final Design
- Construction
- Operation and maintenance

# Consultation and Engagement

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**Interagency Consultation Group:** *Will provide input on overarching USMCA implementation*

EPA

IBWC

Army Corps of Engineers

North American Development Bank

DOS – Consulate General of Tijuana

Customs and Border Protection

Navy

DOI/FWS

Commerce/NOAA

State of CA – EPA/Water Quality Board

State of CA – Natural Resources Agency

San Diego County

City of San Diego

City of Coronado

City of Imperial Beach

City of Chula Vista

- Will convene bi-monthly (begins in July)
- EPA will contact Organizations to get POCs

# Consultation and Engagement (Cont.)

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**Technical Expert Consultation:** *Focus on technical and engineering evaluation of proposed projects*

- EPA, EPA Contractor, and NADBank will work closely with technical experts on both sides of border to:
  - Develop timely, accurate, and objective information
  - Identify issues, solutions, and recommendations
  - Leverage existing data to avoid duplication and maximize efficiency
- Will convene at least monthly and report on progress
- EPA will engage with organizations to identify technical POCs



# Consultation and Engagement (Cont.)

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- Stakeholder Engagement
  - Regular public information webinars and meetings
  - Develop Platform(s) to share information
  
- First public information webinar in late June

# Next Steps

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- Public Information Meeting (Late June, 2020)
- Finalize EPA Contract (June 30, 2020)
- Interagency Consultation Group
  - Identify POCs (June 19, 2020)
  - Next meeting (July, 2020)
- Technical Expert engagement (June, 2020)
  - Report on progress at Interagency and public meetings

QUESTIONS  
&  
COMMENTS

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