



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

August 1, 2017

2017 AUG -3 PM 2:11

The Honorable Serge Dedina
Mayor, City of Imperial Beach
825 Imperial Beach Blvd.
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

CITY MANAGER &
CITY CLERK OFFICES

Dear Mayor Dedina:

I refer to your letter dated July 7, 2017, proposing the investigation of options to construct a large detention basin on federal property east of Dairy Mart Bridge. The purpose of such basin is to maximize the opportunity to capture trash, sediment, and sewage contaminated runoff originating in Mexico and transported by the Tijuana River before the polluted water reaches the Tijuana River valley downstream.

In this regard, I would like to report that the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has been working with the Mexican Section of the IBWC to assemble a matrix of projects to address the problem of persistent sewage spills in the Tijuana River. As you noted in your letter, we are making progress on implementing various non-structural control measures within the framework of Minute 320. We are continuing these efforts.

Regarding the placement of structural controls, we have identified the steps required to construct a sediment basin to intercept the trash, sediment and sewage. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed a '*Hydrology, Floodplain and Sediment Transport Draft Report*' of the Tijuana River dated April 2017. This Phase 1 study, funded by the City of San Diego, performed a hydraulic analysis and sediment transport analysis extending from the U.S.-Mexico international border to the Pacific Ocean. The sediment transport modeling indicated significant deposition occurring in the floodplains with nearly all sediment being captured within the valley. The USIBWC provided data from our hydraulic floodplain study of 2012 to the USACE at the start of their study. A follow up Phase 2 study is planned by the USACE that will develop a hydrologic model to more accurately determine the flows by considering the effects of the dams in Mexico within the Tijuana watershed. Hydraulic modeling and sediment transport modeling are also planned in the Phase 2 study. The USACE Phase 1 and Phase 2 studies are intended to characterize the existing hydrology and hydraulics of the lower Tijuana River watershed area adjacent to the U.S. Mexico international border. These studies can then be used for a wide range of future modeling, feasibility studies and planning efforts.

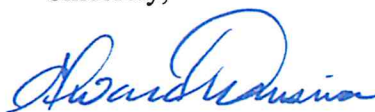
With this background and given the urgency to work on solutions, the USIBWC is considering construction of the sediment basin east of Dairy Mart Road through the following steps: (1) use of the Phase 1 study results to conduct a feasibility study including development of conceptual plans; (2) development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); (3) completion of the Phase 2 study by the USACE; (4) design of the sediment basin; and (5) construction of the sediment basin. Depending upon the completion of the Phase 2 study, we plan to consider technical findings from the study in our design.

We have started working on the requirements to solicit the feasibility study. To help with the Phase 2 study, the USIBWC is working with the Mexican Section of the IBWC to gather data required for the modeling project. This includes instrumentation, collection of additional data, and channel and dam infrastructure assessment in Mexico, to result in a better characterization of the hydrographs for different return period storms. These hydrographs and the sediment transport modeling can improve upon the Phase 1 estimates of the sediment loads and be used to perform an optimal sizing of the sediment basin. We anticipate the completion of the feasibility study, EIS and design to occur in approximately 8 months, 1 year and 1 year, respectively. So, the total time would be about 2.5 years before start of construction of the sediment basin. The contract for the feasibility study will be issued during fiscal year 2018. The anticipated cost of construction of a sediment basin may range from \$5 million to \$10 million, depending upon the size of the basin. Annual operations and maintenance costs are expected to range from \$3 million to \$6 million over the lifetime of the project. The funds for each of the various phases identified above would need to be appropriated by Congress.

In summary, we are cognizant of the many adverse impacts posed by the sewage, trash and sediment flow problem which include health hazards, habitat destruction and quality of life aspects. We will continue to work diligently with all partners concerned to implement these critical projects to overcome the problem.

If you would like any additional information on this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Edward Drusina, P.E.
Commissioner

Original identical sent to list of Mayors and others cced below

cc:

The Honorable Mary Salas, Mayor, City of Chula Vista
The Honorable Richard Bailey, Mayor, City of Coronado
The Honorable Ron Morrison, Mayor, City of National City
US Congressman Juan Vargas
US Congresswoman Susan Davis
US Senator Dianne Feinstein
US Senator Kamala Harris
CA Senator Ben Hueso
CA Senator Toni Atkins
Assembly Member Todd Gloria
Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Bill Kratz, Senator Dianne Feinstein
Serena Hendle, Senator Kamala Harris Office
Lee Steuer, Congresswoman Susan Davis Office
Paola Guzman, Congressman Juan Vargas
Raquel Maden, CA Senator Ben Hueso

Chevelle Newell, CA Senator Toni Atkins
Adriana Martinez, Assembly Member Todd Gloria
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Tom Udall
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Congressman Mike Simpson
Congressman Ken Calvert
Congressman Hal Rogers
Congressman Henry Cuellar
Mike Flynn, US EPA Acting Deputy Administrator
Michael H. Shapiro, Acting Assistant Administrator
Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management
Sheila Frace, Deputy Director
Sam Coleman P.E. US EPA Region 6 Acting Regional Administrator
Alexis Strauss, US EPA Region 9 Acting Regional Administrator
Maria Elena Giner, BECC General Manager
Alex Hinojosa, NADB General Manager