



FACT SHEET

Tijuana Sewer Rehabilitation Project

What is the project?

The Tijuana Sewer Rehabilitation Project is a four-year, \$43 million project for the rehabilitation and replacement of deteriorated or obstructed sewer pipes in the wastewater collection system that services the municipality of Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico. Approximately 131,000 meters of the most severely deteriorated pipe will be repaired, representing 7.5% of the total length of the sewer system. The Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana (CESPT), the local water and wastewater utility, is the lead agency on the project.

Why is the project needed?

The improvements will help reduce sewage overflows and spills in the service area from leaking or obstructed sewer pipes, including spills into the Tijuana River, which flows north into the United States.

When will it start?

The project was certified by the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) at its October 2001 board meeting, and work commenced in early 2002. Work on the Tijuana Sewer Rehabilitation Project is taking place concurrently with the development of the Tijuana Master Plan.

What are the environmental impacts?

EPA issued a Categorical Exclusion for environmental impacts, which means the negative impacts are negligible in the U.S. A Mexican environmental impact study also concluded that the project would produce no significant negative environmental impacts in Mexico. Beneficial impacts of the project include improvement of water quality in the Tijuana River estuary and protection of public health.

How is the project funded?

Funding for the project will be provided by EPA (\$18.5 million), CESPT (\$18.5 million), and the North American Development Bank (\$6 million loan to CESPT).

For more information on the Tijuana Sewer Rehabilitation project, visit the EPA Region 9 U.S.-Mexico Border Web site at www.epa.gov/region09/border/ or contact Wendi Shafir at 415-972-3422 or Shafir.Wendi@epa.gov.