



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 5, 2025

Ambassador Jamieson Greer
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer,

As the Administration begins its review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), we strongly urge you to use this opportunity to pursue further investments and cross-border cooperation to curb the transboundary sewage crisis in the Tijuana River Valley.

The 2020 USMCA allocated \$300 million to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA {Section 821}) to carry out the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of high-priority treatment works in the Tijuana River Valley to treat wastewater flows originating in Mexico. In 2022, the U.S. and Mexico signed an international treaty known as Minute 328. In it, the U.S. agreed to provide \$330 million, which included the \$300 million from USMCA to rebuild the treatment plant, and the Mexican government committed \$144 million to specific projects to be constructed in Baja California, Mexico. It is encouraging that the Administration has prioritized shortening the construction timeline of existing Minute 328 projects, but additional efforts are needed.

The EPA and North American Development Bank (NADBank) have outlined further wastewater treatment, conservation, and remediation projects that further reduce transboundary flows and associated pollution. Although Congress has acted over the past two years to address funding shortfalls confronting critical water treatment infrastructure along the border, more action is required. Along with the implementation of the remaining Minute 328 projects, the following infrastructure initiatives and additional projects are greatly needed:

- **Multi-year funding commitment from the Mexican government on infrastructure projects.** Mexico must commit to building out and maintaining construction of wastewater infrastructure at pace with population growth and in alignment with Minute 328 requirements.
- **Enable the use and allocation of funds for the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Grant Program (BWIP) to Mexico.** Currently, BWIP funding is exclusively used for projects in the United States. If funding eligibility expanded, it could be used for establishing a bi-national fund for trash and sediment collection in Mexico,

and/or water recycling and reuse projects that would incentivize wastewater capture and treatment.

- **Increase agility in how NADBank can lend money to infrastructure projects.** NADBank's \$400 million resiliency fund allows it to fund up to 50 percent of a project. Increasing the percentage, as well as the total amount allocated to their Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF), would enable larger allocations to much-needed water projects.
- **Permanent funding mechanism for Tijuana River Valley infrastructure.** A permanent funding source, that does not rely on Congressional appropriations, is needed to ensure certainty for regional project planning and construction. On the Mexican side, a revenue source beyond reliance on ratepayer funds is essential. This could include the creation of an additional revenue source, possibly tied to trade.
- **Formalize the role of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) and Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (CILA) in the USMCA.** The formalization of the IBWC and CILA within the USMCA institutional architecture would institutionalize the longstanding infrastructure challenge as a standing priority, ensuring visibility, accountability, and sustained policy attention.

These recommendations align with the Administration's broader goals of enhancing regional competitiveness and fostering national prosperity. The USTR served as a critical advocate for this transboundary wastewater crisis in the last USMCA negotiations, and we hope that commitment remains. Continued investment and coordination with the Mexican government remain imperative to ensure long-term solutions to this public health emergency in the San Diego-Tijuana region. Our delegation looks forward to working with you to ensure that the USMCA provides a reliable and impactful resolution.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress