



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

July 24, 2026

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

Dear Ambassador Greer,

Following the Administration's announcement on the status of U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) renegotiations, we are writing to highlight the continued urgency and need for cooperation with Mexico to address the Tijuana River Valley environmental crisis stemming from transboundary sewage flow.

In 2019, the USMCA agreement included \$300 million to rebuild the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP). Mexico committed \$144 million in the agreement to projects in Baja California. Further action is needed in annual review processes of USMCA to ensure that the Mexican government maintains its commitment to build out wastewater infrastructure required to meet the demands of booming population growth in Tijuana and greater Baja California. The United States must develop enforceable environmental standards and a rapid response mechanism for violations of the minute treaties and wastewater spills that can and should be avoided with every possible measure available. It is imperative that both Mexico and the U.S. are held accountable to keeping up each end of their commitments to prevent further health and environmental consequences.

As noted in our previous letter, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and North American Development Bank (NADBank) have outlined further wastewater treatment, conservation, and remediation projects that further reduce transboundary flows and associated pollution. These projects and enforceable environmental protections must be incorporated into future transnational agreements to ensure remediation of the ongoing crisis:

1. **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 and Minute 333 requirements. Minutes 328 and 333 must be viewed as frameworks for binational watershed cooperation and be fully implemented.

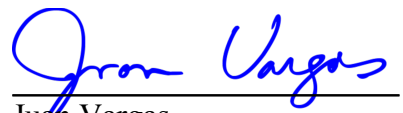
2. **Increase funding for the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Grant Program (BWIP) to Mexico.** Provide \$100 million in annual BWIP funding which could be used to establish a bi-national fund for trash and sediment collection in Mexico, and/or water recycling and reuse projects that would incentivize wastewater capture and treatment.
3. **Increase agility in how NADBank can lend money to infrastructure projects and work more closely with EPA.** 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. Additionally, improved coordination is needed with EPA to expedite completion of infrastructure projects.
4. **Plan and fund construction for river diversion projects and advanced treatment plants.** To ensure wastewater flows are being diverted into wastewater treatment plants that can properly treat and discharge wastewater, long-term construction and O&M funding is needed. Temporary funding solutions are insufficient in addressing the scale and duration of this crisis.
5. **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.
6. **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.

USTR served as a critical advocate during USMCA negotiations in 2019, and we encourage you to continue to prioritize these solutions in any remaining annual reviews. Our delegation looks forward to continuing to work with you to ensure existing agreements are held in place, and progress is made to address this transnational public health emergency.

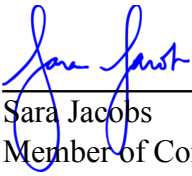
Sincerely,



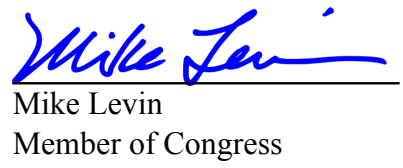
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



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