

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2260

To provide for the water quality restoration of the Tijuana River and the New River, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 10, 2025

Mr. PADILLA introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To provide for the water quality restoration of the Tijuana River and the New River, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Border Water Quality Restoration and Protection Act”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.  
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—TIJUANA RIVER PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATER QUALITY  
RESTORATION

Sec. 101. Findings; purposes.

- Sec. 102. Definitions.  
 Sec. 103. Tijuana River Public Health and Water Quality Restoration Program.  
 Sec. 104. Water quality action plan.  
 Sec. 105. Grants, interagency and other agreements, and assistance.  
 Sec. 106. Annual budget plan.  
 Sec. 107. Reports.

## TITLE II—NEW RIVER PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATER QUALITY RESTORATION

- Sec. 201. Findings; purposes.  
 Sec. 202. Definitions.  
 Sec. 203. California New River Public Health and Water Quality Restoration Program.  
 Sec. 204. Water quality action plan.  
 Sec. 205. Grants, interagency and other agreements, and assistance.  
 Sec. 206. Annual budget plan.  
 Sec. 207. Reports.

## TITLE III—BORDER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

- Sec. 301. United States-Mexico border water infrastructure program.

## TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS

- Sec. 401. Role of the Commissioner and international agreements.

### 1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
 4 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-  
 5 mental Protection Agency.

6 (2) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commis-  
 7 sioner” means the Commissioner of the United  
 8 States Section of the International Boundary and  
 9 Water Commission.

10 (3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
 11 has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in  
 12 section 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian  
 13 Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5130).

1           (4) MEXICAN.—The term “Mexican”, with re-  
2           spect to entities from Mexico, means, as applicable,  
3           the Federal, State, and local governments of Mexico.

4           (5) NEW RIVER.—The term “New River”  
5           means the river that starts in Mexicali, Mexico,  
6           flows north into the United States through Calexico,  
7           passes through the Imperial Valley, and drains into  
8           the Salton Sea.

9           (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
10          the Secretary of State.

11          (7) TIJUANA RIVER.—The term “Tijuana  
12          River” means the river that rises in the Sierra de  
13          Juarez in Mexico, flows through the City of Tijuana  
14          and then north into the United States, passes  
15          through the Tijuana River estuary, and drains into  
16          the Pacific Ocean.

17          (8) WATER REUSE.—The term “water reuse”  
18          has the meaning given the term in the document of  
19          the Environmental Protection Agency entitled “Na-  
20          tional Water Reuse Action Plan Collaborative Imple-  
21          mentation (Version 1)” and dated February 2020.

1 **TITLE I—TIJUANA RIVER PUB-**  
2 **LIC HEALTH AND WATER**  
3 **QUALITY RESTORATION**

4 **SEC. 101. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

6 (1) the Tijuana River flows across the United  
7 States-Mexico border, through the southern United  
8 States, and into the Pacific Ocean;

9 (2)  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the 1,750 square mile watershed of  
10 the Tijuana River lies in Mexico, and the remaining  
11  $\frac{1}{4}$  includes the Tijuana River National Estuarine  
12 Research Reserve in the United States;

13 (3) the Tijuana River National Estuarine Re-  
14 search Reserve is a partnership of Federal and State  
15 agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
16 pheric Administration, California State Parks, and  
17 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

18 (4) the Tijuana River is a significant estuary  
19 and watershed, providing—

20 (A) economic and health benefits to the  
21 citizens of the United States and Mexico; and

22 (B) environmental benefits as critical habi-  
23 tat to shore birds;

24 (5) the economy of communities in southern  
25 California, including smaller communities, such as

1 the City of Imperial Beach, and larger municipali-  
2 ties, such as the City of San Diego, may be signifi-  
3 cantly affected—

4 (A) if the natural beauty and recreational  
5 opportunities of the Tijuana River are de-  
6 graded; and

7 (B) due to public health and environmental  
8 impacts;

9 (6) the Tijuana River watershed is in the midst  
10 of an environmental crisis, as stormwater flows from  
11 the upper watershed, originating in Tijuana, Mexico,  
12 carrying pollutants such as bacteria, trash, and sedi-  
13 ment that severely affect water quality;

14 (7) coastal communities in and near the Ti-  
15 juana River watershed are also affected, during cer-  
16 tain tidal events, by a combination of treated waste-  
17 water and chlorinated-only wastewater discharged  
18 from the San Antonio de los Buenos wastewater  
19 treatment plant located 5 miles south of the United  
20 States-Mexico border in Tijuana;

21 (8) as reported by the Government Account-  
22 ability Office in February 2020, transboundary flows  
23 of untreated sewage, combined with unmanaged  
24 stormwater, bring bacteria and other contaminants

1 into the Tijuana River Valley watershed and beaches  
2 in the United States;

3 (9) sediment flows into the Tijuana River Na-  
4 tional Wildlife Refuge and blocks the flow of ocean  
5 water and creates an imbalance in water salinity,  
6 necessary for marsh plants, fish, and birds;

7 (10) before the date of enactment of this Act,  
8 the City of Imperial Beach has experienced more  
9 than 1,000 consecutive days of beach closures due to  
10 the ongoing influx of sewage, industrial discharges,  
11 and trash from the Tijuana River due to risk to  
12 human health;

13 (11) flows of untreated sewage, chemicals, and  
14 pollution from Mexico jeopardize the health of Bor-  
15 der Patrol agents and limit the ability of those  
16 agents to operate in areas affected by these flows;

17 (12) a March 2020 report of the Environmental  
18 Financial Advisory Board of the Environmental Pro-  
19 tection Agency—

20 (A) found that—

21 (i) “stormwater knows no jurisdic-  
22 tional boundaries . . . and is a principal  
23 cause of water quality issues nationwide”;  
24 and

1                   (ii) adequate funding to manage  
2                   stormwater pollution lags behind the in-  
3                   vestments made in wastewater manage-  
4                   ment and the delivery of safe drinking  
5                   water by decades; and

6                   (B) concluded that Federal investment will  
7                   be required to address—

8                   (i) the lack of State and local funding;  
9                   and

10                  (ii) multi-jurisdictional stormwater  
11                  management needs;

12                  (13) during the 10-year period before the date  
13                  of enactment of this Act, Federal, State, and local  
14                  governments and others have identified the benefits  
15                  of using natural and green infrastructure to control  
16                  and manage stormwater runoff, including wetlands,  
17                  coastal dunes, and retention structures;

18                  (14) during the 20-year period before the date  
19                  of enactment of this Act, the United States and  
20                  Mexico, through the International Boundary and  
21                  Water Commission, have agreed to resolve the pollu-  
22                  tion problems in the Tijuana River;

23                  (15) the International Boundary and Water  
24                  Commission has negotiated 9 Minutes to resolve

1 water quality problems in the Tijuana River, among  
2 other subjects;

3 (16) 1 of the most recent Minutes authorized  
4 the construction of the South Bay International  
5 Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Ysidro to treat,  
6 on average, 25,000,000 gallons of sewage from Ti-  
7 juana per day, which has reduced the sewage coming  
8 into the United States;

9 (17) the sewer system of Tijuana is—

10 (A) aging and deteriorating; and

11 (B) insufficient to meet the needs of a  
12 quickly growing population;

13 (18) in August 2023, Tropical Storm Hilary—

14 (A) caused more than 2,000,000,000 gal-  
15 lons of contaminated water to flow across the  
16 border; and

17 (B) exacerbated vulnerabilities at the  
18 South Bay International Wastewater Treatment  
19 Plant;

20 (19) on January 22, 2024, a record-breaking  
21 storm caused the Tijuana River to reach the highest  
22 flow ever recorded for that river at 14,500,000 gal-  
23 lons per day;

24 (20) from January to December of 2024, an es-  
25 timated 36,154,000,000 gallons of wastewater,



1 treated water, and stormwater flowed from Mexico  
2 to the United States;

3 (21) on June 17, 2024, a pump station failure  
4 resulted in approximately 302,000 gallons of un-  
5 treated spilling onto the public right-of-way;

6 (22) during the 2-year period before the date of  
7 enactment of this Act, transboundary flows occurred  
8 on 317 days, on average, each year;

9 (23) those transboundary flows contain treated  
10 wastewater, raw sewage, and urban runoff, with  
11 most of those flows associated with wet weather and  
12 stormwater;

13 (24) during the 2-year period before the date of  
14 enactment of this Act, unprecedented dry weather  
15 flows reached approximately 13,795,000,000 gallons;

16 (25) abnormal dry weather flows and sediment  
17 have caused pump failures, oppressive odors, and  
18 public health concerns;

19 (26) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act  
20 (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) has established a  
21 stormwater permit program under the National Pol-  
22 lutant Discharge Elimination System, under which  
23 municipalities have the responsibility to manage and  
24 treat stormwater;

1           (27) because of the international border and  
2           different treatment systems and standards, dis-  
3           charges in Mexico to the Tijuana River are not  
4           treated to the same standards as the standards to  
5           which discharges would be treated in the United  
6           States;

7           (28) the International Boundary and Water  
8           Commission negotiated Minute 320 to find solutions  
9           for water quality, trash, and sediment in the Tijuana  
10          River;

11          (29) the International Boundary and Water  
12          Commission negotiated Minute 328 to implement  
13          sanitation infrastructure projects in Tijuana, Baja  
14          California, and San Diego, California, that will be fi-  
15          nanced with a total joint investment of  
16          \$474,000,000;

17          (30) the United States has invested at least  
18          \$300,000,000 for secondary wastewater treatment in  
19          the Tijuana River Valley by the International  
20          Boundary and Water Commission and the Environ-  
21          mental Protection Agency through the United  
22          States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and Minute 328;

23          (31) the Environmental Protection Agency and  
24          the International Boundary and Water Commission  
25          selected Alternative 2, as described in the final pro-

1       grammatic environmental impact statement of the  
2       Environmental Protection Agency and the Inter-  
3       national Boundary and Water Commission entitled  
4       “USMCA Mitigation of Contaminated Transbound-  
5       ary Flows Project” and dated November 2, 2022,  
6       and selected in the record of decision of the Environ-  
7       mental Protection Agency and the International  
8       Boundary and Water Commission entitled “Joint  
9       Record of Decision for the Final Programmatic En-  
10      vironmental Impact Statement for United States-  
11      Mexico-Canada Agreement Mitigation of Contami-  
12      nated Transboundary Flows Project” and signed on  
13      June 9, 2023;

14           (32) the United States has also helped fund  
15      water and wastewater infrastructure along the bor-  
16      der through the Border Water Infrastructure Pro-  
17      gram and the North American Development Bank;  
18      and

19           (33) however, as the Government Accountability  
20      Office found in the report described in paragraph  
21      (8)—

22           (A) the longstanding environmental and  
23      health problems associated with transboundary  
24      stormwater flows continue; and

1 (B) while the International Boundary and  
2 Water Commission has taken the first steps to  
3 conduct long-term capital planning to resolve  
4 existing problems by proposing and analyzing  
5 alternatives, analyzing costs, identifying solu-  
6 tions, or establishing time frames, significant  
7 additional investment from the resources of  
8 Federal, State, Tribal, local, and Mexican enti-  
9 ties is needed to improve the water quality of  
10 the Tijuana River watershed.

11 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this title are—

12 (1) to establish a Geographic Program to plan  
13 and implement water quality restoration and protec-  
14 tion activities;

15 (2) to ensure the coordination of restoration  
16 and protection activities among Mexican, Federal,  
17 State, local, and regional entities and conservation  
18 partners relating to water quality and stormwater  
19 management in the Mexican Tijuana River water-  
20 shed and the American Tijuana River watershed;  
21 and

22 (3) to provide funding for water quality restora-  
23 tion and protection activities in the Mexican Tijuana  
24 River watershed and the American Tijuana River  
25 watershed.

1 **SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this title:

3 (1) AMERICAN TIJUANA RIVER WATERSHED.—

4 The term “American Tijuana River watershed”  
5 means the portion of the Tijuana River watershed  
6 that lies in the United States.

7 (2) MEXICAN TIJUANA RIVER WATERSHED.—

8 The term “Mexican Tijuana River watershed”  
9 means the portion of the Tijuana River watershed  
10 that lies in Mexico.

11 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
12 the Tijuana River Public Health and Water Quality  
13 Restoration Program established under section  
14 103(a)(1).

15 (4) PROGRAM DIRECTOR.—The term “Program  
16 Director” means the Program Director of the pro-  
17 gram designated under section 103(a)(2).

18 (5) WATER QUALITY RESTORATION AND PRO-  
19TECTION.—The term “water quality restoration and  
20 protection”, with respect to the Tijuana River water-  
21 shed, means—

22 (A) the enhancement of water quality and  
23 stormwater management; and

24 (B) the use of natural and green infra-  
25 structure to enhance the ability of the water-

1 shed to capture pollutants and reduce runoff to  
 2 prevent flooding.

3 **SEC. 103. TIJUANA RIVER PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATER**  
 4 **QUALITY RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

6 (1) PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after  
 7 the date of enactment of this Act, subject to the  
 8 availability of appropriations provided specifically for  
 9 this purpose, the Administrator shall establish a Ge-  
 10 ographic Program, to be known as the “Tijuana  
 11 River Public Health and Water Quality Restoration  
 12 Program”.

13 (2) PROGRAM DIRECTOR.—Not later than 180  
 14 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-  
 15 ministrator shall designate a Program Director of  
 16 the program, who shall—

17 (A) have leadership and project manage-  
 18 ment experience; and

19 (B) be qualified—

20 (i) to direct the integration of multiple  
 21 project planning efforts and programs  
 22 from different agencies and jurisdictions;

23 (ii) to align numerous, and possibly  
 24 competing, priorities to accomplish visible

1 and measurable outcomes under the action  
2 plan under section 104(a)(1);

3 (iii) to manage efforts and associated  
4 functions needed to run the management  
5 conference described in subsection (b)(2);

6 (iv) to facilitate engagement with the  
7 International Boundary and Water Com-  
8 mission and related Federal agencies;

9 (v) to solicit feedback from relevant  
10 Federal, State, Tribal, local, public, non-  
11 profit, and other relevant stakeholders on  
12 the creation and implementation of the ac-  
13 tion plan under section 104(a)(1); and

14 (vi) to consult with Indian Tribes  
15 within the American Tijuana River water-  
16 shed region.

17 (b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the program—

18 (1) the Administrator shall—

19 (A) develop the action plan under section  
20 104(a)(1) to address pollution prevention, envi-  
21 ronmental and ecological restoration, climate  
22 change, resilience, and mitigation, and related  
23 efforts, in the American Tijuana River water-  
24 shed region;

1 (B) carry out projects, plans, and initia-  
2 tives for the Tijuana River and work in con-  
3 sultation with applicable management entities,  
4 including representatives of the Federal Govern-  
5 ment, State and local governments, Tribal gov-  
6 ernments, and regional and nonprofit organiza-  
7 tions, to carry out public health and water qual-  
8 ity restoration and protection activities relating  
9 to the Tijuana River;

10 (C) carry out activities that—

11 (i) develop, using monitoring, data  
12 collection, and assessment, a shared set of  
13 science-based water quality restoration and  
14 protection activities identified in accord-  
15 ance with subparagraph (B);

16 (ii) support the implementation of a  
17 shared set of science-based water quality  
18 restoration and protection activities identi-  
19 fied in accordance with subparagraph (B),  
20 including water reuse projects, water recy-  
21 cling projects, and natural and green infra-  
22 structure projects;

23 (iii) target cost-effective projects with  
24 measurable results; and



1 (iv) maximize public health and water  
2 quality conservation outcomes;

3 (D) coordinate the development of con-  
4 sistent Federal policies, strategies, projects, and  
5 priorities for addressing the public health and  
6 water quality restoration and protection of the  
7 Tijuana River;

8 (E) coordinate a funding strategy among  
9 available funding sources in the region; and

10 (F) provide grants, agreements, and tech-  
11 nical assistance in accordance with section 105;  
12 and

13 (2) not later than 120 days after the date on  
14 which the Program Director is designated under  
15 subsection (a)(2), the Program Director shall con-  
16 vene a management conference for the Tijuana River  
17 pursuant to section 320 of the Federal Water Pollu-  
18 tion Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330).

19 (c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the program,  
20 the Administrator shall consult, as appropriate, with—

21 (1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

22 (A) the Secretary;

23 (B) the Commissioner;

24 (C) the Secretary of Agriculture;

25 (D) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

1 (E) the Administrator of General Services;

2 (F) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs  
3 and Border Protection;

4 (G) the Secretary of the Interior;

5 (H) the Secretary of the Army, acting  
6 through the Chief of Engineers;

7 (I) the Administrator of the National Oce-  
8 anic and Atmospheric Administration;

9 (J) the Director of the United States Fish  
10 and Wildlife Service; and

11 (K) the head of any other applicable agen-  
12 cy, as determined by the Administrator;

13 (2) a representative of Naval Base Coronado;

14 (3) a representative of the Commander, Navy  
15 Region Southwest;

16 (4) a representative of the Coast Guard;

17 (5) a representative of the United States Geo-  
18 logical Survey;

19 (6) a representative of the Bureau of Indian Af-  
20 fairs;

21 (7) a representative from each Indian Tribe lo-  
22 cated within the American Tijuana River watershed;

23 (8) the heads of State of California agencies  
24 and local agencies, including—

25 (A) the Governor of California;

1 (B) the California Environmental Protec-  
2 tion Agency;

3 (C) the California State Water Resources  
4 Control Board;

5 (D) the California Department of Water  
6 Resources;

7 (E) the San Diego Regional Water Quality  
8 Control Board; and

9 (F) the County of San Diego;

10 (9) 2 representatives of affected units of local  
11 government in the State of California, chosen on a  
12 rotating 3-year cycle by the Governor of California,  
13 including representatives from the City of Imperial  
14 Beach, the City of San Diego, the City of Chula  
15 Vista, the City of Coronado, and the Port of San  
16 Diego;

17 (10) 2 representatives of relevant nonprofit  
18 groups, chosen on a rotating 3-year cycle by the  
19 Governor of California;

20 (11) other public agencies and organizations  
21 with authority for the planning and implementation  
22 of conservation strategies relating to the Tijuana  
23 River in the United States and Mexico, as deter-  
24 mined by the Administrator; and

1           (12) representatives of the North American De-  
2       velopment Bank.

3       (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA  
4 OF UNDERSTANDING.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—To achieve the purposes of  
6       this title and to ensure effective coordination of Fed-  
7       eral and non-Federal water quality restoration and  
8       protection activities, the Administrator shall use  
9       amounts made available for the United States-Mex-  
10      ico border water infrastructure program under sec-  
11      tion 301 and payments received pursuant to para-  
12      graph (4)(A) to enter into cooperative agreements  
13      and memoranda of understanding with, and provide  
14      technical assistance to—

15           (A) the heads of other Federal agencies,  
16       States, State agencies, units of local govern-  
17       ment, Tribal governments, regional govern-  
18       mental bodies, and private entities; and

19           (B) in cooperation with the Secretary, the  
20       Government of Mexico.

21       (2) USE OF AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator  
22      may enter into the cooperative agreements and  
23      memoranda of understanding described in paragraph  
24      (1) to carry out the activities described in this sec-  
25      tion, including studies, plans, construction, and com-

1       pletion of projects to improve the water quality of,  
2       environment of, and public health around the Ti-  
3       juana River.

4           (3) TERM.—The cooperative agreements and  
5       memoranda of understanding described in paragraph  
6       (1) shall be limited to a specified period of time, as  
7       determined by the Administrator.

8           (4) FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.—

9           (A) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator  
10       enters into a cooperative agreement or memo-  
11       randum of understanding described in para-  
12       graph (1), the Administrator may require the  
13       other party to the agreement or memorandum  
14       to provide payment to the Administrator.

15          (B) DEPOSIT.—Any amounts received as a  
16       payment under subparagraph (A) shall be de-  
17       posited into the State and Tribal Assistance  
18       Grants account of the Environmental Protec-  
19       tion Agency and shall remain available, without  
20       further appropriation, to carry out the purposes  
21       of this title.

22          (5) PERSONNEL; SERVICES; TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
23       ANCE.—The Administrator may provide or accept  
24       personnel, services, and technical assistance pursu-  
25       ant to a cooperative agreement or memorandum of

1 understanding described in paragraph (1), with or  
2 without reimbursement, for the purposes of carrying  
3 out the agreement or memorandum.

4 **SEC. 104. WATER QUALITY ACTION PLAN.**

5 (a) DEVELOPMENT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in con-  
7 sultation with the entities described in section  
8 103(c), shall develop an action plan in accordance  
9 with the Statement of Intent between the United  
10 States and Mexico relating to the implementation of  
11 priority sanitation projects in the San Diego, CA.-  
12 Tijuana, BC region, signed on July 1, 2022, for the  
13 purpose of improving and protecting the water qual-  
14 ity of the Tijuana River watershed.

15 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The action plan under  
16 paragraph (1) shall—

17 (A) build on and incorporate any existing  
18 efforts and plans to improve and protect the  
19 water quality of the Tijuana River watershed,  
20 including ongoing and completed efforts and  
21 plans;

22 (B) incorporate projects identified in Alter-  
23 native 2, as described in the final programmatic  
24 environmental impact statement of the Environ-  
25 mental Protection Agency and the International

1 Boundary and Water Commission entitled  
2 “USMCA Mitigation of Contaminated Trans-  
3 boundary Flows Project” and dated November  
4 2, 2022, and selected in the record of decision  
5 of the Environmental Protection Agency and  
6 the International Boundary and Water Com-  
7 mission entitled “Joint Record of Decision for  
8 the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact  
9 Statement for United States-Mexico-Canada  
10 Agreement Mitigation of Contaminated Trans-  
11 boundary Flows Project” and signed on June 9,  
12 2023; and

13 (C) include—

14 (i) such features as are needed to im-  
15 prove and protect the quality of waste-  
16 water, stormwater runoff, and other un-  
17 treated flows;

18 (ii) criteria for selecting—

19 (I) water quality restoration and  
20 protection projects; and

21 (II) projects on the priority list  
22 under subsection (c)(1);

23 (iii) the amounts necessary for the op-  
24 erations and maintenance of infrastructure

1 existing on and constructed after the date  
2 of enactment of this Act; and

3 (iv) potential sources of funding to  
4 help pay the costs described in clause (iii).

5 (3) OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUND-  
6 ING.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—In developing the ac-  
8 tion plan under paragraph (1), the Adminis-  
9 trator, working with the entities described in  
10 section 103(c), shall assess and identify poten-  
11 tial alternative sources and approaches for fi-  
12 nancing infrastructure projects, including fi-  
13 nancing the operations and maintenance of  
14 those infrastructure projects.

15 (B) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out sub-  
16 paragraph (A), the Administrator shall assess  
17 the approaches identified in the report of the  
18 Environmental Financial Advisory Board enti-  
19 tled “Evaluating Stormwater Infrastructure  
20 Funding and Financing” and dated March  
21 2020.

22 (b) ISSUANCE; UPDATES.—The Administrator  
23 shall—



1           (1) not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
2           actment of this Act, issue the action plan under sub-  
3           section (a)(1); and

4           (2) every 5 years after the date on which the  
5           action plan is issued under paragraph (1), update  
6           the action plan.

7           (c) PRIORITY LIST.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—The action plan under sub-  
9           section (a)(1) shall include a priority list of potential  
10          or proposed water quality restoration and protection  
11          projects for the Tijuana River watershed that—

12                (A) provides for the management of waste-  
13                water or stormwater or the removal of debris,  
14                sediment, chemicals, bacteria, and other con-  
15                taminants from the water flowing north into the  
16                United States;

17                (B) estimates the costs and identifies the  
18                entities that will fund the construction, oper-  
19                ation, and maintenance of each project on the  
20                priority list;

21                (C) is developed in coordination with the  
22                entities described in section 103(c);

23                (D) assists agencies to coordinate funding;  
24                and

25                (E) identifies projects—

1 (i) in the Mexican Tijuana River wa-  
2 tershed;

3 (ii) in the American Tijuana River  
4 watershed; and

5 (iii) that address transboundary flows  
6 that affect coastal communities in and  
7 near the Tijuana River watershed.

8 (2) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the priority  
9 list under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—

10 (A) use the best available science, includ-  
11 ing any relevant findings and recommendations  
12 of a watershed assessment conducted by Fed-  
13 eral, State, Tribal, and local agencies;

14 (B) carry out and fund science develop-  
15 ment, monitoring, or modeling as needed to in-  
16 form project development and assessment;

17 (C) include—

18 (i) the projects described in subsection  
19 (a)(2)(B); and

20 (ii) such other projects that the Ad-  
21 ministrator determines appropriate based  
22 on the availability of peer-reviewed or oth-  
23 erwise published scientific research; and

24 (D) include, in order of priority, potential  
25 or proposed water quality or stormwater

1 projects for the restoration and protection of  
2 the Tijuana River that—

3 (i) would help—

4 (I) to achieve and maintain the  
5 water quality standards for—

6 (aa) public health;

7 (bb) recreational opportuni-  
8 ties;

9 (cc) scenic resources; and

10 (dd) wildlife and habitat;

11 and

12 (II) to address water needs in the  
13 Tijuana River watershed, including  
14 through water reuse and water recy-  
15 cling; and

16 (ii) would identify responsible agencies  
17 and funding sources through coordinated  
18 efforts by the entities described in section  
19 103(c).

20 **SEC. 105. GRANTS, INTERAGENCY AND OTHER AGREE-**  
21 **MENTS, AND ASSISTANCE.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to carry out the purposes  
23 of the program as described in section 101(b) and imple-  
24 ment priority projects identified under section 104(c), the  
25 Administrator may—

1           (1) provide grants and technical assistance to  
2           the Commissioner, State and local governments,  
3           Tribal governments, the North American Develop-  
4           ment Bank, entities described in section 103(c)(11),  
5           nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher  
6           education, in both the United States and Mexico;  
7           and

8           (2) enter into interagency agreements with  
9           other Federal agencies.

10          (b) CRITERIA.—The Administrator, in consultation  
11 with the entities described in section 103(c), shall develop  
12 criteria for providing grants and technical assistance and  
13 entering into interagency agreements under subsection (a)  
14 to ensure that activities carried out under an interagency  
15 agreement or using those grants or technical assistance—

16           (1) accomplish 1 or more of the purposes iden-  
17           tified in section 101(b); and

18           (2) advance the implementation of priority  
19           projects identified under section 104(c).

20          (c) COST SHARING.—The Administrator may estab-  
21 lish a Federal share requirement for any project carried  
22 out using any assistance provided under this section on  
23 an individual project basis.

24          (d) ADMINISTRATION.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may  
 2           enter into an agreement to manage the implementa-  
 3           tion of this section with the North American Devel-  
 4           opment Bank or a similar organization that offers  
 5           grant management services.

6           (2) FUNDING.—If the Administrator enters into  
 7           an agreement under paragraph (1), the organization  
 8           selected shall—

9                   (A) for each fiscal year, receive amounts to  
 10                  carry out this section in an advance payment of  
 11                  the entire amount on the date of enactment of  
 12                  an appropriations Act making appropriations to  
 13                  the Administrator for a fiscal year, or as soon  
 14                  as practicable thereafter; and

15                   (B) otherwise administer the implementa-  
 16                  tion of this section to support partnerships be-  
 17                  tween the public and private sectors in accord-  
 18                  ance with this title.

19           (e) CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE.—The Commissioner may construct, operate, and  
 20           maintain any project carried out using funds made avail-  
 21           able to carry out this section.

22           (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

23                   (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
 24                  appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this  
 25

1       section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
2       through 2036, to remain available until expended.

3           (2) SET ASIDE.—Of amounts made available to  
4       carry out this section, the Administrator may use  
5       not more than 5 percent for grants under this sec-  
6       tion for salaries, expenses, and administration.

7           (3) TRANSFER.—The Administrator may trans-  
8       fer amounts made available under this subsection to  
9       the Commissioner as the Administrator determines  
10      necessary to carry out this section.

11   **SEC. 106. ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN.**

12       The President, as part of the annual budget submis-  
13      sion of the President to Congress under section 1105(a)  
14      of title 31, United States Code, shall submit estimated ex-  
15      penditures and proposed appropriations for projects under  
16      this title, including administrative needs and expenses, for  
17      the current year, the budget year, and 5 outyears (as those  
18      terms are defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budg-  
19      et and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.  
20      900(c))), including for projects included in the priority list  
21      under section 104(c), for each Federal agency described  
22      in section 103(c)(1).

23   **SEC. 107. REPORTS.**

24       Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
25      of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Adminis-

1 trator shall submit to Congress a report on the implemen-  
 2 tation of this title, including—

3 (1) a description of—

4 (A) each project that has received funding  
 5 pursuant to this title; and

6 (B) the status of all projects that have re-  
 7 ceived funding pursuant to this title that are in  
 8 progress on the date of submission of the re-  
 9 port; and

10 (2) an assessment of the effectiveness of the op-  
 11 eration and maintenance of each project that has  
 12 been carried out pursuant to this title.

13 **TITLE II—NEW RIVER PUBLIC**  
 14 **HEALTH AND WATER QUAL-**  
 15 **ITY RESTORATION**

16 **SEC. 201. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

17 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

18 (1) the New River was born out of—

19 (A) occasional flows of the Colorado River  
 20 into the Salton Sink; and

21 (B) the erosion of the New River channel,  
 22 which formed the deep river canyon between  
 23 1905 and 1907;

24 (2) the New River—

25 (A) starts in Mexicali, Mexico;

1 (B) flows north into the United States  
2 through Calexico;

3 (C) passes through the Imperial Valley;  
4 and

5 (D) drains into the Salton Sea approxi-  
6 mately 66 miles north of the international  
7 boundary;

8 (3) the sub-watershed of the New River covers  
9 approximately 750 square miles, of which 63 percent  
10 is in Mexico and 37 percent is in the United States;

11 (4) the New River has been widely recognized  
12 for significant water pollution problems, primarily  
13 because of agricultural runoff, raw sewage, pes-  
14 ticides, and discharges of wastes from domestic, ag-  
15 ricultural, and industrial sources in Mexico and the  
16 Imperial Valley;

17 (5) by the 1980s, the New River acquired the  
18 reputation of being 1 of the most polluted rivers in  
19 the United States, with many pollutants in the New  
20 River posing serious human health hazards to local  
21 populations, particularly in Calexico and Mexicali;

22 (6) in 1992, Minute 288 of the International  
23 Boundary and Water Commission—



1 (A) established a sanitation strategy for  
2 the water quality problems of the New River at  
3 the international border; and

4 (B) divided sanitation projects into 2 im-  
5 mediate repair projects, the Mexicali I and  
6 Mexicali II, that—

7 (i) totaled approximately  
8 \$50,000,000; and

9 (ii) were funded by both the United  
10 States and Mexico through the North  
11 American Development Bank;

12 (7) in 1995, the Environmental Protection  
13 Agency provided funds to the California Regional  
14 Water Quality Control Board to monitor and docu-  
15 ment the water quality at the international boundary  
16 on a monthly basis;

17 (8) in the late 1990s—

18 (A) the United States and Mexico spent  
19 \$100,000,000 (of which 45 percent was paid by  
20 Mexico and 55 percent was paid by the United  
21 States) to build the Las Arenitas and Zaragoza  
22 wastewater treatment plants; and

23 (B) after the construction of those plants,  
24 untreated water from the New River was passed  
25 through 4 microbial treatment cells at the Las

1           Arenitas wastewater treatment plant, which was  
2           then chlorinated and fed into a reforestation  
3           project along the desiccated Rio Hardy, which  
4           stretches to the Sea of Cortez;

5           (9) a 10-year effort by community groups, law-  
6           yers, regulatory agencies, and politicians addressed  
7           the problem of water quality in the New River at the  
8           source by—

9                   (A) federally funding a new sewage treat-  
10                  ment plant in Mexicali; and

11                  (B) developing a site plan for the portion  
12                  of the New River in the United States;

13           (10) in 2009, the State of California required  
14           the California-Mexico Border Relations Council—

15                   (A) to create a water quality plan to study,  
16                  monitor, remediate, and enhance the water  
17                  quality of the New River to protect human  
18                  health; and

19                   (B) to develop a river parkway suitable for  
20                  public use;

21           (11) in 2012, the California-Mexico Border Re-  
22           lations Council approved the strategic plan for the  
23           New River Improvement Project that was prepared  
24           by the New River Improvement Project Technical  
25           Advisory Committee;

1           (12) in 2016, the New River Improvement  
2       Project Technical Advisory Committee revised the  
3       recommended infrastructure of the New River Im-  
4       provement Project, and the State of California ap-  
5       propriated \$1,400,000 to provide grants or contracts  
6       to carry out the necessary planning, design, environ-  
7       mental review, and permitting work;

8           (13) the revised New River Improvement  
9       Project includes the installation of a large trash  
10      screen, a conveyance system, aeration devices, a new  
11      pump station, and managed wetlands; and

12          (14) the existing and ongoing voluntary con-  
13      servation efforts at the New River necessitate im-  
14      proved efficiency and cost effectiveness, increased  
15      private sector investments, and coordination of Fed-  
16      eral and non-Federal resources.

17      (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this title include—

18          (1) coordinating water quality restoration and  
19      protection activities relating to the New River  
20      among Mexican, Federal, State, local, and regional  
21      entities and conservation partners; and

22          (2) carrying out coordinated restoration and  
23      protection activities relating to the New River and  
24      providing technical assistance for those activities—

1 (A) to sustain and enhance fish and wild-  
2 life habitat restoration and protection activities;

3 (B) to improve and maintain water quality  
4 to support fish and wildlife, as well as the habi-  
5 tats of fish and wildlife;

6 (C) to sustain and enhance water manage-  
7 ment for volume and flood damage mitigation  
8 improvements to benefit fish and wildlife habi-  
9 tat;

10 (D) to improve opportunities for public ac-  
11 cess to, and recreation in and along, the New  
12 River consistent with the ecological needs of  
13 fish and wildlife habitat;

14 (E) to maximize the resilience of natural  
15 systems and habitats under changing watershed  
16 conditions;

17 (F) to engage the public through outreach,  
18 education, and citizen involvement to increase  
19 capacity and support for coordinated water  
20 quality restoration and protection activities re-  
21 lating to the New River;

22 (G) to increase scientific capacity to sup-  
23 port the planning, monitoring, and research ac-  
24 tivities necessary to carry out coordinated water

1 quality restoration and protection activities re-  
2 lating to the New River; and

3 (H) to provide technical assistance to carry  
4 out water quality restoration and protection ac-  
5 tivities relating to the New River.

6 **SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this title:

8 (1) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
9 the California New River Public Health and Water  
10 Quality Restoration Program established under sec-  
11 tion 203(a).

12 (2) WATER QUALITY RESTORATION AND PRO-  
13TECTION.—The term “water quality restoration and  
14 protection”, with respect to the New River water-  
15 shed, means—

16 (A) the enhancement of water quality and  
17 stormwater management; and

18 (B) the use of natural and green infra-  
19 structure to enhance the ability of the water-  
20 shed to capture pollutants and reduce runoff to  
21 prevent flooding.

22 **SEC. 203. CALIFORNIA NEW RIVER PUBLIC HEALTH AND**  
23 **WATER QUALITY RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
25 the date of enactment of this Act, subject to the avail-

1 ability of appropriations provided specifically for this pur-  
2 pose, the Administrator shall establish a Geographic Pro-  
3 gram, to be known as the “California New River Public  
4 Health and Water Quality Restoration Program”.

5 (b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the program, the Ad-  
6 ministrator shall—

7 (1) carry out projects, plans, and initiatives for  
8 the New River that are supported by the California-  
9 Mexico Border Relations Council, and work in con-  
10 sultation with applicable management entities, in-  
11 cluding representatives of the Calexico New River  
12 Committee, the California-Mexico Border Relations  
13 Council, the New River Improvement Project Tech-  
14 nical Advisory Committee, the Federal Government,  
15 State and local governments, and regional and non-  
16 profit organizations, to carry out water quality res-  
17 toration and protection activities relating to the New  
18 River;

19 (2) carry out activities that—

20 (A) develop, using monitoring, data collec-  
21 tion, and assessment, a shared set of science-  
22 based water quality restoration and protection  
23 activities identified in accordance with para-  
24 graph (1);

1 (B) support the implementation of a  
 2 shared set of science-based water quality res-  
 3 toration and protection activities identified in  
 4 accordance with paragraph (1), including water  
 5 reuse projects, water recycling projects, and  
 6 natural and green infrastructure projects;

7 (C) target cost-effective projects with  
 8 measurable results; and

9 (D) maximize public health and water  
 10 quality conservation outcomes; and

11 (3) provide grants, agreements, and technical  
 12 assistance in accordance with section 205.

13 (c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the program,  
 14 the Administrator shall consult, as appropriate, with—

15 (1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

16 (A) the Secretary of the Interior;

17 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture;

18 (C) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

19 (D) the Administrator of General Services;

20 (E) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs  
 21 and Border Protection;

22 (F) the Commissioner;

23 (G) the Secretary of the Army, acting  
 24 through the Chief of Engineers;

1 (H) the Administrator of the National  
2 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

3 (I) the Director of the United States Fish  
4 and Wildlife Service; and

5 (J) the head of any other applicable agen-  
6 cy, as determined by the Administrator;

7 (2) the Governor of California;

8 (3) the California Environmental Protection  
9 Agency;

10 (4) the California State Water Resources Con-  
11 trol Board;

12 (5) the California Department of Water Re-  
13 sources;

14 (6) the Colorado River Basin Regional Water  
15 Quality Control Board;

16 (7) the Imperial Irrigation District;

17 (8) the Salton Sea Authority;

18 (9) the County of Imperial;

19 (10) other public agencies and organizations  
20 with authority for the planning and implementation  
21 of conservation strategies relating to the New River  
22 in the United States and Mexico, as determined by  
23 the Administrator; and

24 (11) representatives of the North American De-  
25 velopment Bank.



1 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA  
2 OF UNDERSTANDING.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—To achieve the purposes of  
4 this title, the Administrator may enter into coopera-  
5 tive agreements and memoranda of understanding  
6 with—

7 (A) the heads of other Federal agencies,  
8 States, State agencies, units of local govern-  
9 ment, regional governmental bodies, and private  
10 entities; and

11 (B) in cooperation with the Secretary, the  
12 Government of Mexico.

13 (2) USE OF AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator  
14 may enter into the cooperative agreements and  
15 memoranda of understanding described in paragraph  
16 (1)—

17 (A) to carry out the activities described in  
18 this section, including studies, plans, construc-  
19 tion, and completion of projects to improve the  
20 water quality of, environment of, and public  
21 health around the New River; and

22 (B) to carry out a pilot project under  
23 which the Administrator shall, for projects se-  
24 lected by the Administrator that would other-  
25 wise not be successful in improving the water

1 quality of, environment of, and public health of  
2 people residing in areas surrounding the New  
3 River—

4 (i) identify the parties responsible for  
5 the projects; and

6 (ii) provide funds to those parties for  
7 the operations and maintenance of the  
8 projects.

9 (3) TERM.—The cooperative agreements and  
10 memoranda of understanding described in paragraph  
11 (1) shall be limited to a specified period of time, as  
12 determined by the Administrator.

13 (4) FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator  
15 enters into a cooperative agreement or memo-  
16 randum of understanding described in para-  
17 graph (1), the Administrator may require the  
18 other party to the agreement or memorandum  
19 to provide payment to the Administrator.

20 (B) DEPOSIT.—Any amounts received as a  
21 payment under subparagraph (A) shall be de-  
22 posited into the State and Tribal Assistance  
23 Grants account of the Environmental Protec-  
24 tion Agency and shall remain available, without

1 further appropriation, to carry out the purposes  
2 of this title.

3 (5) PERSONNEL; SERVICES; TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
4 ANCE.—The Administrator may provide or accept  
5 personnel, services, and technical assistance pursu-  
6 ant to a cooperative agreement or memorandum of  
7 understanding described in paragraph (1), with or  
8 without reimbursement, for the purposes of carrying  
9 out the agreement or memorandum.

10 **SEC. 204. WATER QUALITY ACTION PLAN.**

11 (a) DEVELOPMENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in con-  
13 sultation with the entities described in section  
14 203(c), shall develop an action plan for the purpose  
15 of improving and protecting the water quality of the  
16 New River watershed.

17 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The action plan under  
18 paragraph (1) shall—

19 (A) build on and incorporate any existing  
20 efforts and plans to improve and protect the  
21 water quality of the New River, whether ongo-  
22 ing or completed; and

23 (B) include—

24 (i) such features as are needed to im-  
25 prove and protect the quality of waste-

1 water, stormwater runoff, and other un-  
2 treated flows;

3 (ii) criteria for selecting—

4 (I) water quality restoration and  
5 protection projects; and

6 (II) projects on the priority list  
7 under subsection (c)(1);

8 (iii) the amounts necessary for the op-  
9 erations and maintenance of infrastructure  
10 existing on and constructed after the date  
11 of enactment of this Act; and

12 (iv) potential sources of funding to  
13 help pay the costs described in clause (iii).

14 (3) OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUND-  
15 ING.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—In developing the ac-  
17 tion plan under paragraph (1), the Adminis-  
18 trator, working with the entities described in  
19 section 203(c), shall assess and identify poten-  
20 tial alternative sources and approaches for fi-  
21 nancing infrastructure projects, including fi-  
22 nancing the operations and maintenance of  
23 those infrastructure projects.

24 (B) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out sub-  
25 paragraph (A), the Administrator shall assess

1 the approaches identified in the report of the  
2 Environmental Financial Advisory Board enti-  
3 tled “Evaluating Stormwater Infrastructure  
4 Funding and Financing” and dated March  
5 2020.

6 (b) ISSUANCE; UPDATES.—The Administrator  
7 shall—

8 (1) not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
9 actment of this Act, issue the action plan under sub-  
10 section (a)(1); and

11 (2) every 5 years after the date on which the  
12 action plan is issued under paragraph (1), update  
13 the action plan.

14 (c) PRIORITY LIST.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The action plan under sub-  
16 section (a)(1) shall include a priority list of potential  
17 or proposed water quality restoration and protection  
18 projects for the New River watershed that—

19 (A) provides for the management of waste-  
20 water or stormwater or the removal of debris,  
21 sediment, chemicals, bacteria, and other con-  
22 taminants from the water flowing north into the  
23 United States;

24 (B) estimates the costs and identifies the  
25 entities that will fund the construction, oper-

ation, and maintenance of each project on the  
priority list;

(C) is developed in coordination with the  
entities described in section 203(c);

(D) assists agencies to coordinate funding;  
and

(E) identifies projects—

(i) in the New River watershed; and

(ii) that address transboundary flows  
that affect coastal communities in and  
near the New River watershed.

(2) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the priority  
list under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—

(A) use the best available science, includ-  
ing any relevant findings and recommendations  
of a watershed assessment conducted by Fed-  
eral, State, and local agencies;

(B) carry out and fund science develop-  
ment, monitoring, or modeling as needed to in-  
form project development and assessment; and

(C) include, in order of priority, potential  
or proposed water quality or stormwater  
projects for the restoration and protection of  
the New River that—

(i) would help—

1 (I) to achieve and maintain the  
2 water quality standards for—

3 (aa) public health;

4 (bb) recreational opportuni-  
5 ties;

6 (cc) scenic resources; and

7 (dd) wildlife and habitat;  
8 and

9 (II) to address water needs in the  
10 New River watershed, including  
11 through water reuse and water recy-  
12 cling; and

13 (ii) would identify responsible agencies  
14 and funding sources through coordinated  
15 efforts by the entities described in section  
16 203(c).

17 **SEC. 205. GRANTS, INTERAGENCY AND OTHER AGREE-**  
18 **MENTS, AND ASSISTANCE.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to carry out the purposes  
20 of the program as described in section 201(b) and imple-  
21 ment priority projects identified under section 204(c), the  
22 Administrator may—

23 (1) provide grants and technical assistance to  
24 the Commissioner, State and local governments,  
25 Tribal governments, the North American Develop-

1       ment Bank, entities described in section 203(c)(9),  
2       nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher  
3       education, in both the United States and Mexico;  
4       and

5           (2) enter into interagency agreements with  
6       other Federal agencies.

7       (b) CRITERIA.—The Administrator, in consultation  
8       with the entities described in section 203(c), shall develop  
9       criteria for providing grants and technical assistance and  
10      entering into interagency agreements under subsection (a)  
11      to ensure that activities carried out under an interagency  
12      agreement or using those grants or technical assistance—

13           (1) accomplish 1 or more of the purposes iden-  
14      tified in section 201(b); and

15           (2) advance the implementation of priority  
16      projects identified under section 204(c).

17      (c) COST SHARING.—The Administrator may estab-  
18      lish a Federal share requirement for any project carried  
19      out using any assistance provided under this section on  
20      an individual project basis.

21      (d) ADMINISTRATION.—

22           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may  
23      enter into an agreement to manage the implementa-  
24      tion of this section with the North American Devel-



1        opment Bank or a similar organization that offers  
 2        grant management services.

3            (2) FUNDING.—If the Administrator enters into  
 4        an agreement under paragraph (1), the organization  
 5        selected shall—

6            (A) for each fiscal year, receive amounts to  
 7        carry out this section in an advance payment of  
 8        the entire amount on the date of enactment of  
 9        an appropriations Act making appropriations to  
 10       the Administrator for a fiscal year, or as soon  
 11       as practicable thereafter; and

12           (B) otherwise administer the implementa-  
 13       tion of this section to support partnerships be-  
 14       tween the public and private sectors in accord-  
 15       ance with this title.

16        (e) CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE.—The Commissioner may construct, operate, and  
 17       maintain any project carried out using funds made avail-  
 18       able to carry out this section.

20        (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21           (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
 22       appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this  
 23       section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
 24       through 2036, to remain available until expended.

1           (2) SET ASIDE.—Of amounts made available to  
 2           carry out this section, the Administrator may use  
 3           not more than 5 percent for grants under this sec-  
 4           tion for salaries, expenses, and administration.

5           (3) TRANSFER.—The Administrator may trans-  
 6           fer amounts made available under this subsection to  
 7           the Commissioner as the Administrator determines  
 8           necessary to carry out this section.

9   **SEC. 206. ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN.**

10       The President, as part of the annual budget submis-  
 11       sion of the President to Congress under section 1105(a)  
 12       of title 31, United States Code, shall submit estimated ex-  
 13       penditures and proposed appropriations for projects under  
 14       this title, including administrative needs and expenses, for  
 15       the current year, budget year, and 5 outyears (as those  
 16       terms are defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budg-  
 17       et and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.  
 18       900(c))), including for projects included in the priority list  
 19       under section 204(c), for each Federal agency described  
 20       in section 203(c)(1).

21   **SEC. 207. REPORTS.**

22       Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
 23       of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Adminis-  
 24       trator shall submit to Congress a report on the implemen-  
 25       tation of this title, including—

1 (1) a description of—

2 (A) each project that has received funding  
3 pursuant to this title; and

4 (B) the status of all projects that have re-  
5 ceived funding pursuant to this title that are in  
6 progress on the date of submission of the re-  
7 port; and

8 (2) an assessment of the effectiveness of the op-  
9 eration and maintenance of each project that has  
10 been carried out pursuant to this title.

11 **TITLE III—BORDER WATER IN-**  
12 **FRASTRUCTURE IMPROVE-**  
13 **MENT**

14 **SEC. 301. UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER WATER INFRA-**  
15 **STRUCTURE PROGRAM.**

16 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
18 ty” means the United States Section of the Inter-  
19 national Boundary and Water Commission, a State,  
20 a local government, an Indian Tribe, or a water or  
21 wastewater district with jurisdiction over any area in  
22 the United States or Mexico that is located within  
23 100 kilometers of the United States-Mexico border.

24 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “eligible  
2 project” means a project for the construction of  
3 infrastructure for drinking water treatment or  
4 distribution, wastewater management, or  
5 stormwater management, including natural and  
6 green infrastructure and infrastructure for  
7 water reuse and water recycling, that—

8 (i) addresses an existing human  
9 health or ecological issue;

10 (ii) has an effect in the United States;

11 (iii) with respect to wastewater man-  
12 agement infrastructure the water dis-  
13 charged from which will flow, directly or  
14 indirectly, into the United States, is de-  
15 signed to meet, to the maximum extent  
16 practicable, all relevant water quality  
17 standards of the country in which the  
18 project is located, including, for projects  
19 located in the United States, any applica-  
20 ble standards established under the Fed-  
21 eral Water Pollution Control Act (33  
22 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

23 (iv) is proposed by an eligible entity  
24 with legal authority—

25 (I) to develop the project;

1 (II) to provide the proposed  
2 drinking water or wastewater services;  
3 and

4 (III) to obtain necessary financ-  
5 ing, including operations and mainte-  
6 nance funding;

7 (v) will comply with relevant State  
8 and local environmental and other laws  
9 (including regulations), including with re-  
10 spect to—

11 (I) obtaining any necessary oper-  
12 ating permits and licenses; and

13 (II) complying with any other  
14 regulatory requirements related to  
15 land acquisition and rights-of-way;  
16 and

17 (vi) has the support of appropriate  
18 Mexican Federal and State agencies, in-  
19 cluding the Comision Nacional del Agua  
20 (commonly known as “CONAGUA” or the  
21 Mexican National Water Commission) and  
22 any appropriate State or municipal water  
23 utility, if the project is located in Mexico.

24 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “eligible  
25 project” does not include a project—

1 (i) for new water supply;

2 (ii) that threatens an ecosystem lo-  
3 cated in the United States, or that is lo-  
4 cated in both the United States and Mex-  
5 ico, if the project causes a reduction in the  
6 flow of water; or

7 (iii) to provide drinking water, waste-  
8 water, or stormwater services to enable  
9 new development.

10 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
11 the program established under subsection (b).

12 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall  
13 carry out a program to provide financial assistance, tech-  
14 nical assistance, or a combination of financial and tech-  
15 nical assistance to eligible entities for activities related to  
16 eligible projects, including feasibility studies, planning  
17 studies, environmental assessments, financial analyses,  
18 community participation efforts, and architectural, engi-  
19 neering, planning, design, construction, and operations  
20 and maintenance activities.

21 (c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the program,  
22 the Administrator shall consult with the North American  
23 Development Bank.

24 (d) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program,  
25 the Administrator shall coordinate with Federal, State,

1 local, and Tribal entities in the border region, including  
2 the Department of Homeland Security, the International  
3 Boundary and Water Commission, and relevant State  
4 agencies.

5 (e) PROJECT SELECTION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—In selecting projects for  
7 which to provide assistance under the program, the  
8 Administrator shall select projects in accordance  
9 with—

10 (A) paragraph (2); and

11 (B) any other criteria determined appro-  
12 priate by the Administrator.

13 (2) PRIORITIZATION.—In carrying out para-  
14 graph (1), the Administrator shall prioritize projects  
15 that—

16 (A) are identified in an action plan under  
17 section 104(a)(1) or 204(a)(1); or

18 (B)(i) are likely to have the greatest posi-  
19 tive effects relating to the environment and  
20 public health;

21 (ii) will result in benefits on the United  
22 States side of the United States-Mexico border;

23 (iii) address the most urgent public health  
24 and environmental needs, as determined by the

1 heads of the Regional offices for Regions 6 and  
 2 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency; and  
 3 (iv) maximize sustainable practices, such  
 4 as water reuse and water recycling, natural and  
 5 green infrastructure, water efficiency, and con-  
 6 servation.

7 (f) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Administrator  
 8 may establish such terms and conditions on assistance  
 9 provided under the program as the Administrator deter-  
 10 mines appropriate.

11 (g) COST SHARE.—The Administrator may establish  
 12 a Federal share requirement for any project carried out  
 13 using any assistance provided under this section on an in-  
 14 dividual project basis.

## 15 **TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS**

### 16 **SEC. 401. ROLE OF THE COMMISSIONER AND INTER-** 17 **NATIONAL AGREEMENTS.**

18 (a) WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER AUTHORITY.—  
 19 The Commissioner may study, design, construct, operate,  
 20 and maintain projects to manage, improve, and protect the  
 21 quality of wastewater, stormwater runoff, and other un-  
 22 treated flows in the Tijuana River watershed and the New  
 23 River watershed.



1 (b) TIJUANA AND NEW RIVER PROJECTS WITHIN  
2 THE UNITED STATES.—The Secretary, acting through the  
3 Commissioner, shall—

4 (1) construct, operate, and maintain projects  
5 that—

6 (A) are on a priority list developed under  
7 section 104(c) or 204(c);

8 (B) are within the United States; and

9 (C) improve the water quality of the Ti-  
10 juana River watershed or the New River water-  
11 shed, as applicable; and

12 (2) use available funds, including funds received  
13 under this Act, to construct, operate, and maintain  
14 the projects described in paragraph (1).

15 (c) AGREEMENTS WITH MEXICO.—The Secretary,  
16 acting through the Commissioner, may execute an agree-  
17 ment with the appropriate official or officials of the Gov-  
18 ernment of Mexico for—

19 (1) the joint study and design of stormwater  
20 control and water quality projects; and

21 (2) on approval of the necessary plans and  
22 specifications of the projects described in paragraph  
23 (1), the construction, operation, and maintenance of  
24 those projects by the United States and Mexico, in  
25 accordance with the treaty relating to the utilization

1 of the waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers,  
2 and of the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo) from Fort  
3 Quitman, Texas, to the Gulf of Mexico, and supple-  
4 mentary protocol, signed at Washington February 3,  
5 1944 (59 Stat. 1219), between the United States  
6 and Mexico.

7 (d) FUNDING.—A project located wholly or partially  
8 within Mexico shall be eligible for funding under a pro-  
9 gram established under title I, II, or III if the project is—  
10 (1) identified under and consistent with an ac-  
11 tion plan under section 104(a)(1) or 204(a)(1); and  
12 (2) approved by the Administrator.

13 (e) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section  
14 limits the authority of the International Boundary and  
15 Water Commission under this Act or any other provision  
16 of law.

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