

ALEX PADILLA

U.S. SENATOR  CALIFORNIA

Border Water Quality Restoration and Protection Act of 2025

Sens. Alex Padilla, Adam Schiff, & Cory Booker, Reps. Juan Vargas & Scott Peters

Purpose of the bill:

Implement the findings and recommendations of the GAO's [February 2020 report](#) examining ongoing water quality problems along the U.S.-Mexico border in order to improve coordination and strategic planning between federal, state, and local agencies to address long-standing, systemic water infrastructure and pollution issues.

Summary of the bill:

Tijuana River Public Health and Water Quality Restoration

- Requires EPA – in coordination with relevant federal, state, and local agencies – to develop a comprehensive water quality management program for the Tijuana River watershed within 180 days.
 - Requires EPA and its federal, state, and local partners to review and update the priority water infrastructure projects needed to address the cross-boundary water pollution problem by incorporating new information and understanding of the impacts of the pollution and feasibility of solutions since the comprehensive suite of projects identified by EPA and the IWBC was agreed upon in the USMCA implementation plan in 2022.
 - Authorizes EPA to accept and distribute funds to federal, state, and local partners to construct, operate, and maintain the identified priority projects.

New River Public Health and Water Quality Restoration

- Requires EPA – in coordination with relevant federal, state, and local agencies – to develop a comprehensive water quality management program for the New River watershed within 180 days.
 - Requires EPA and its federal, state, and local partners to identify a consensus list of priority projects as well as the construction and operations and maintenance costs associated with them.
 - Authorizes EPA to accept and distribute funds to federal, state, and local partners to construct, operate, and maintain the identified priority projects.

Border Water Infrastructure Improvement

- Codifies EPA's existing border-wide program to fund water infrastructure projects that benefit U.S. communities.

Role of the International Boundary and Water Commission

- Requires the U.S. IBWC Commissioner to participate in the construction of projects identified in the Tijuana and New River comprehensive plans and specifically authorizes IBWC to address stormwater and to accept funding made available by the bill.