From: Steve Smullen
To: mlemus@cespt.gob.mx; respinosa@cila.gob.mx
CC: Liden, Douglas; [redacted]; Gilbert Anaya; Jose Nunez; Wayne Belzer; Andy Hall; Chris Helmer; gabriela[redacted]ns.com; Roger Kube; fmelbourn@waterboards.ca.gov; Hiram Sarabia; Cory Pukini
Sent: 3/14/2017 8:01:00 PM
Subject: Re: February 2017 Wastewater Spill Rio Tijuana - Additional Questions

Good Afternoon Roberto,

As a follow up to my email questions yesterday, I pulled a copy of the chart from the Tijuana River gage for the last 2 months. The chart shows a consistent overall decrease in stage and flow from the runoff event on January 20-24, when a total of 1.78 inches of rain fell on the IBWC rain gage at Goat Canyon Pump Station. The stage was dropping approximately 0.01-0.02 meters per day. This is to be expected in the falling leg of a hydrograph after a rain event - a gradual decrease in flow. On February 7, the average stage stopped dropping and held nearly steady until the next rainfall event on Feb 17-18. In fact, on Feb 7 there was an increase of stage of 12.07 m to 12.11 m, which corresponds to a flow increase from 2.331 cms to 3.555 cms, an increase of 1.224 cms. In the 2 days prior to February 7, the average stage was approximately 12.07 m. Between February 7 and February 18 the average stage was 12.08 - 12.09 m. This data seems to support the addition of flow to the Tijuana River. We would appreciate any insights or comments you or CESPT may have to add.

Thanks,

Steve

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>>> Steve Smullen 3/13/2017 10:48 AM >>>
Good Morning Roberto,

Thank you for the very informative presentation and site visit provided by CESPT last week regarding the February 1-4, 2017 wastewater spill to the Rio Alamar and the Rio Tijuana resulting from the emergency work needed to repair the collector along Lazaro Cardenas Blvd. We understand that the spill was a flow of approximately 300 lps that lasted 4 days - from February 1 to February 4, 2017, however this period does not correspond with the period during which data and observations were noted and reported on the U.S. side.

Both residents and agencies in the U.S. reported strong wastewater odors in the ocean, river valley and local neighborhoods bordering the river between February 6 and February 17, and these were confirmed by U.S. Section personnel on February 7 and February 17. These types of reports are unprecedented during the winter when the river typically experiences runoff events from precipitation. As you know this winter has been wetter than normal making these reports even more unusual. In addition, samples taken from the river at the Dairymart Bridge on January 31, February 7, February 14 and February 21, 2017 indicated high levels of e. coli bacteria.

January 31, 2017 - 14,136,000 MPN/100 ml

February 7, 2017 - 2,064,000 MPN/100 ml

February 14, 2017 - 3,873,000 MPN/100 ml

February 21, 2017 - 2,143,000 MPN/100 ml

These indicate the presence of domestic wastewater flow in the river. Were there any releases of wastewater to the river following completion of the work at Lazaro Cardenas Blvd on February 4? Does Mexico have any explanation for these data and observations, and can you provide insights as to where these flows may be originating?

Thanks,

Steve

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