USMCA Tijuana River Watershed

Interagency Consultation Group (IACG)

October 1, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Pacific
(1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern)

Agenda Topics

5 min	**Welcome and Overview – Co-Chairs**
30 min	**Update on Short-Term Impact Projects** • Temporary Tijuana River Diversion Project • Trash & Sediment Capture at Smuggler's Gulch
25 min	**Project Evaluation Criteria**
40 min	**Proposed Long Term Projects to be Evaluated – Region 9**
10 min	**Next Steps – Co-Chairs**
5 min	**Closing Remarks & Adjourn**

USMCA Tijuana River Watershed Interagency Consultation Group (IACG)

Virtual Meeting: October 1, 2020

Role Call: Interagency Consultation Group (IACG) - Principals and Delegates

- CalEPA
- California Natural Resource Agency
- City of Chula Vista
- City of Coronado
- City of Imperial Beach
- City of San Diego
- North American Development Bank
- Port of San Diego
- San Diego County
- San Diego Regional Board
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Customs & Border Protection
- US Department of Commerce
- US Department of State
- US Fish and Wildlife
- US International Boundary and Water Commission
- US Navy

Agenda

- Update on Potential Short-Term Impact Projects
- Project Evaluation Criteria
- Proposed Long-Term Projects to be Evaluated
- Next Steps
- Closing Remarks & Adjourn

Update on Potential Short-Term Impact Projects in Tijuana Valley

David Smith, Water Division Assistant Director, EPA Region 9

Short Term Options Considered

- **Temporary river diversion** to:
  - International Treatment Plant (ITP)
  - San Diego South Bay Water Reclamation Plant (WRP)
  - Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP)
- **Increase treatment of sewage from Tijuana** at ITP, WRP, WTP
- **Sediment/Trash Control Basin** in Smugglers Gulch

- WRP and WTP options found to be infeasible in the short term
- Uncertain if treating more Tijuana sewage would reduce River flows

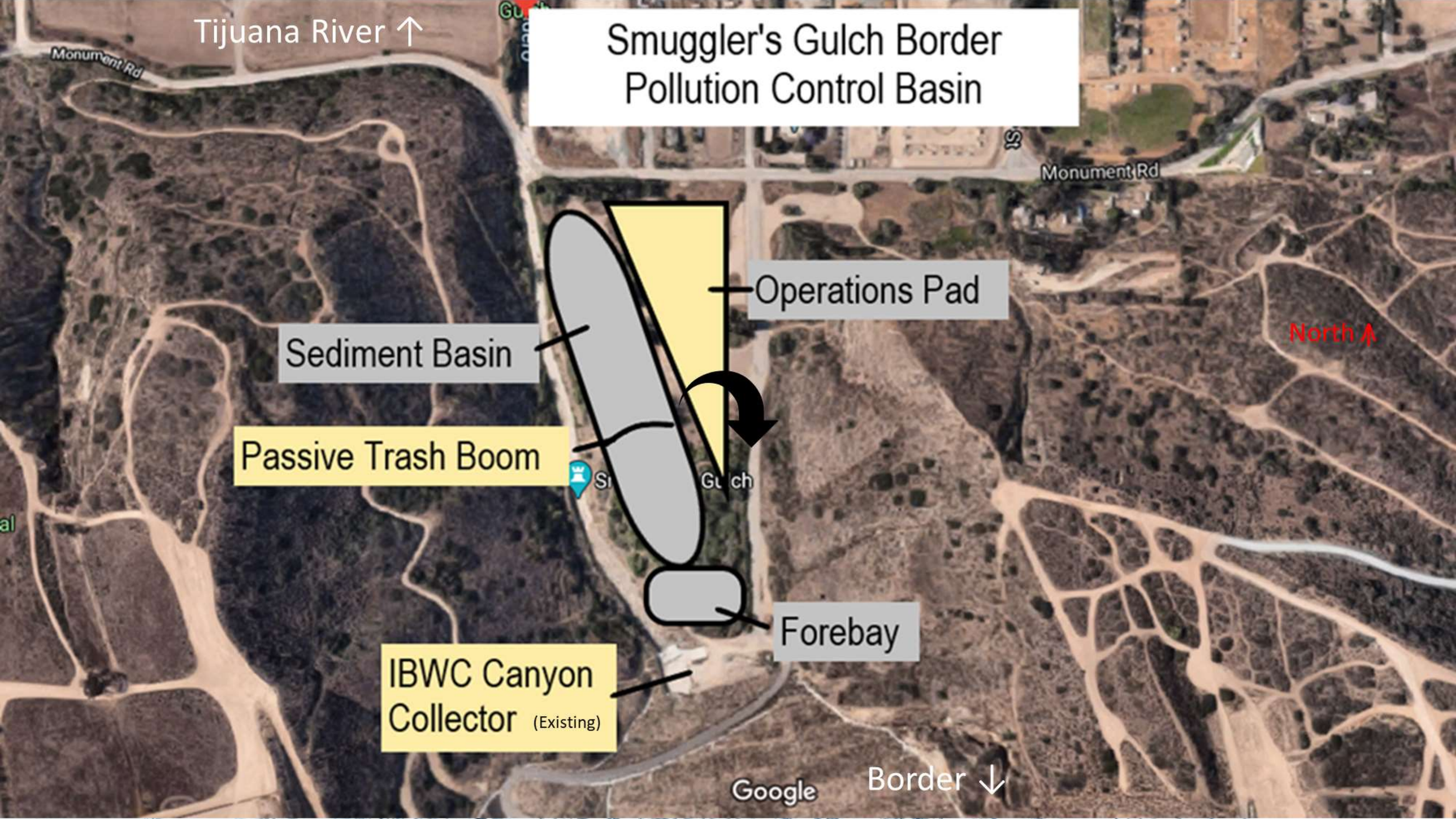
Short-Term Project #1:
Temporary River Diversion To ITP

- Concept: divert up to 10 mgd of dry weather flows to ITP to reduce/stop flows
- Earthen berm/weir with temporary piping/pump to move flows to ITP
- ITP would treat flows and discharge through ocean outfall
- San Diego County may construct diversion (to be reimbursed with State funds); IBWC would operate
- Given upcoming “wet season”; likely construction in late winter/early spring 2021
- Working with IBWC, Water Board, Army Corps to address regulatory needs
- Funding for operating diversion may be a constraint

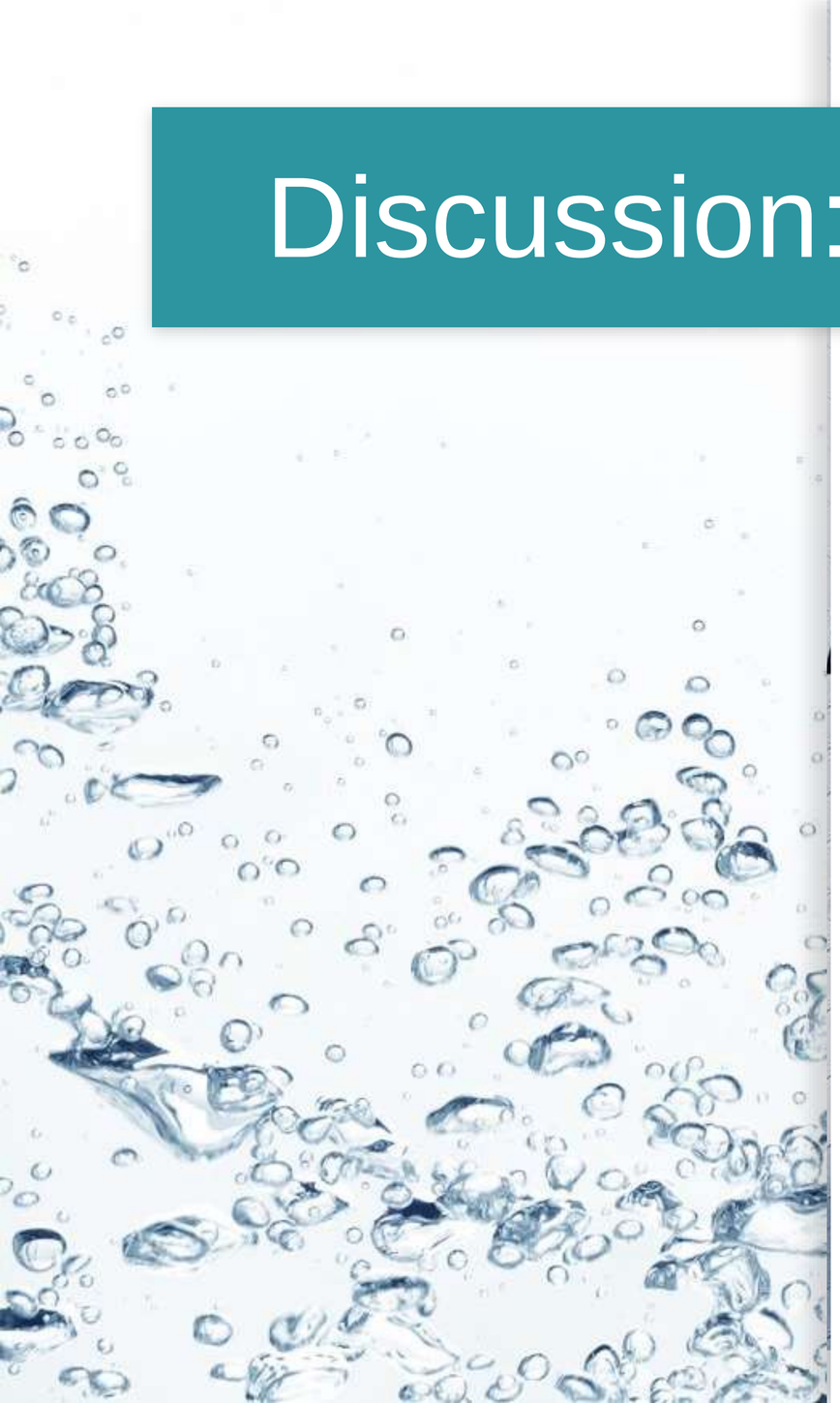
River Diversion to ITP: Conceptual Rendering

Short-Term Project #2:
Smugglers Gulch Trash and Sediment Basin

- Concept: fast-track sediment capture basin and trash boom in Smugglers Gulch to trap large trash/sediment flows, reduce downstream impacts
- Combines 2 proposals in County's SB507 Report
- Partnership with San Diego County, City of San Diego, Regional Water Board
- Seeking funding for construction from CA Coastal Conservancy
- Coordinating closely with Border Patrol to address potential concerns
- Would be built in late ~2021


Tijuana River ↑
Smuggler's Gulch Border
Pollution Control Basin
Monument Rd
Monument Rd
Operations Pad
Sediment Basin
Passive Trash Boom
North
Forebay
IBWC Canyon
Collector (Existing)
Google
Border ↓

Discussion:

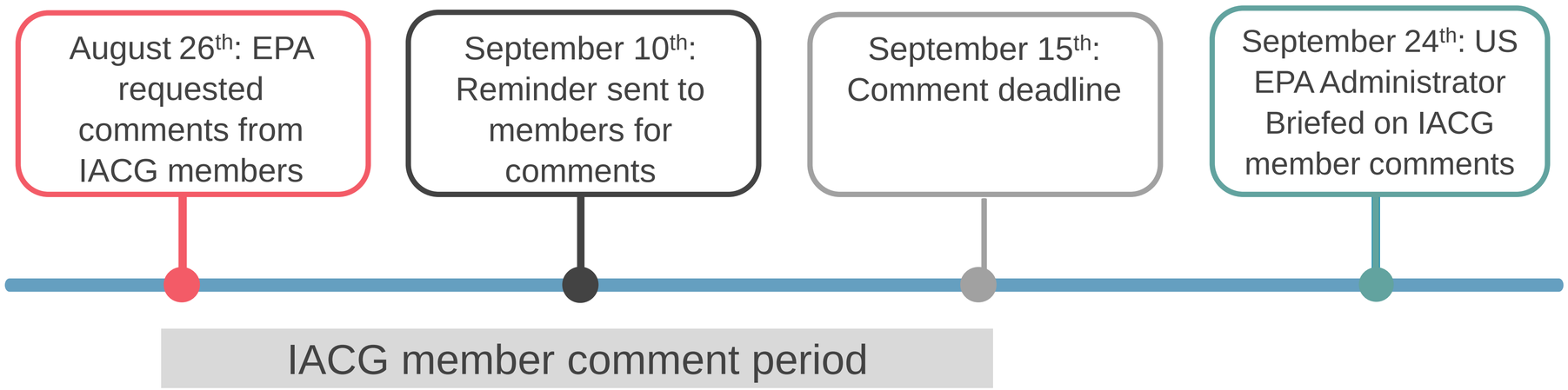


- Clarifying questions?
- Are there additional considerations to note in advancing these short-term projects?

Project Evaluation Criteria

Tomas Torres, Water Division Director, EPA Region 9

Criteria Feedback Timeline & Overview



Comments received from these organizations:

- The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)
- The North American Development Bank (NADB)
- The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- Imperial Beach in collaboration with Chula Vista, San Diego County, San Diego Regional Board, and Port of San Diego.

Comments Received and Refinements Made

- Significant refinements based on comments
- Clarifying language
- Delete/add new sub-criteria
- Weighting

Refinement to Criteria 1: Effectiveness

- Effectiveness in reducing U.S.-side environmental and human health impacts (40%)
  - Location of project
    - U.S. v. Mexico
    - Main river channel v. broader watershed
    - Tijuana River valley v. San Antonio de los Buenos wastewater treatment plant on Tijuana's south coast
  - Impacts to affected populations
    - Account for future population growth and continued urbanization
  - Effectiveness in reducing:
    - Bacteria, beach advisories, and impact to recreation and human health in Imperial Beach, along the Silver Strand up to Coronado Beach
    - Impact to border security operations and border workforce
    - Impact on Navy training grounds
    - Transboundary flow frequency
  - Source and type of pollution reduction
    - Untreated sewage discharged to river or ocean ~~Sewage overflows~~
    - Urban stormwater run-off
    - Trash (e.g. waste tires)
    - Sediment
  - Environmental benefits in addition to public health protection
    - Marine environment
    - Wildlife
    - Tijuana River Estuary

Refinement to Criteria 2: Technical Feasibility

- Technical Feasibility ~~Engineering Feasibility~~ (10%)
  - ~~Stage in planning process~~
  - Spatial constraints with consideration of jurisdiction's willingness to collaborate
  - Feasibility of design and construction ~~Complexity of design~~
  - Details of cost estimates ~~Robustness of cost estimates~~
  - Proven technology

Refinement to Criteria 3: Financial Feasibility

- Financial feasibility ~~Leveraging~~ (5%)
  - Availability of matching funds, public or private
  - Percentage of grant applied to capital expenditures v. planning and feasibility
  - Attractiveness for private investment

Refinement to Criteria 4: Regulatory Feasibility

- Regulatory feasibility (10%)
  - Feasibility ~~complexity~~ and timing of permitting and approvals
  - Environmental analyses and potential adverse impacts not associated with pollution reduction potential
  - Requirements for construction and/or operation agreements

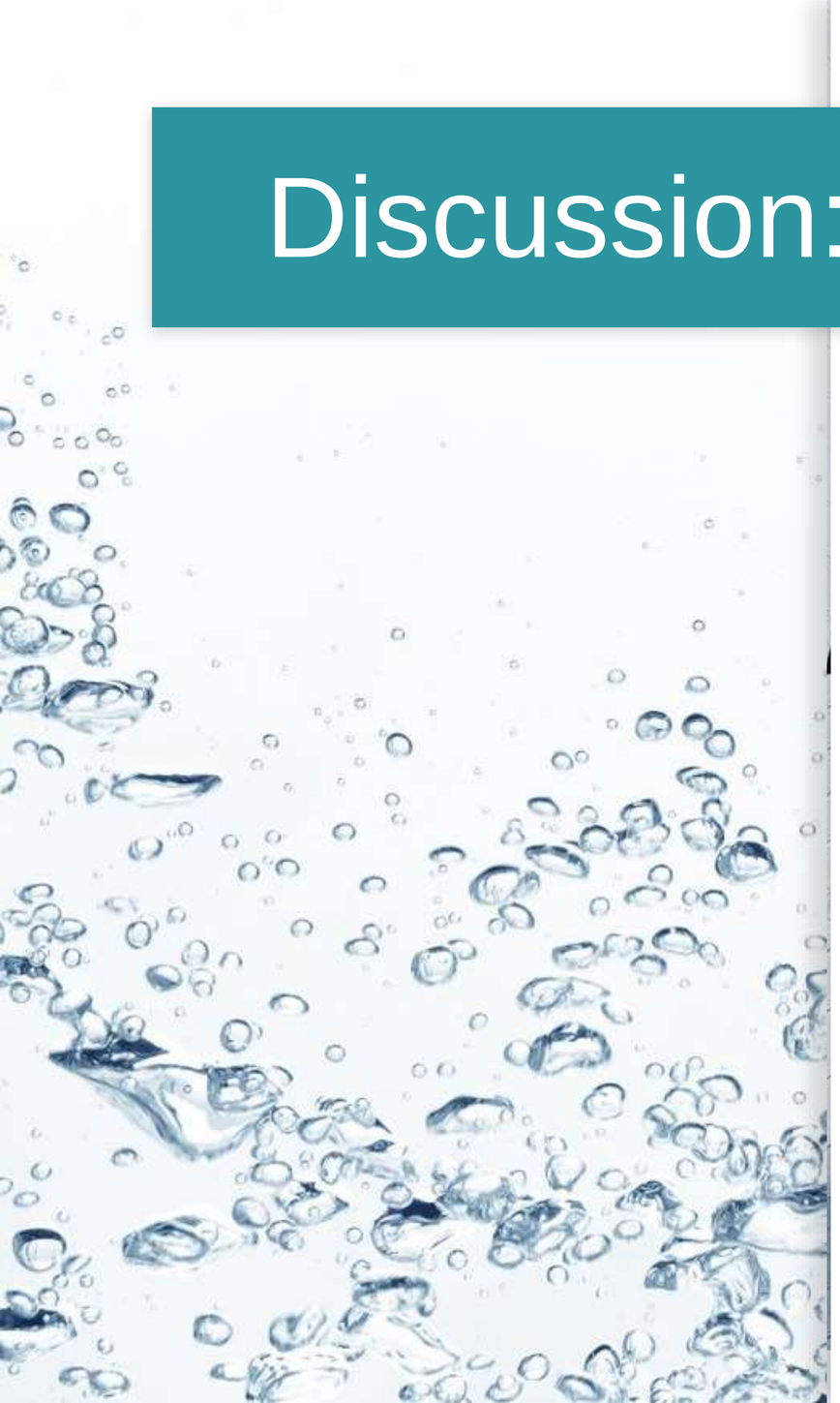
Refinement to Criteria 5: Implementation Timeline

- Implementation Timeline ~~Timeframe to construct~~ (15%)
  - Timing for completion of design ~~Shovel-readiness of design~~
  - Speed of contractor engagement and deployment and materials acquisition
  - ~~Litigation risk from local or other opposition~~

Refinement to Criteria 6: Operations and Maintenance

- Operations & Maintenance (20%)
  - Annualized cost projections
  - Source of funding
  - Responsible party and feasibility of O&M plan
  - Talent acquisition and project management plan
  - Risk associated with Mexico-side operations
  - Effective and long-term U.S. oversight of construction and operations and maintenance

Discussion:

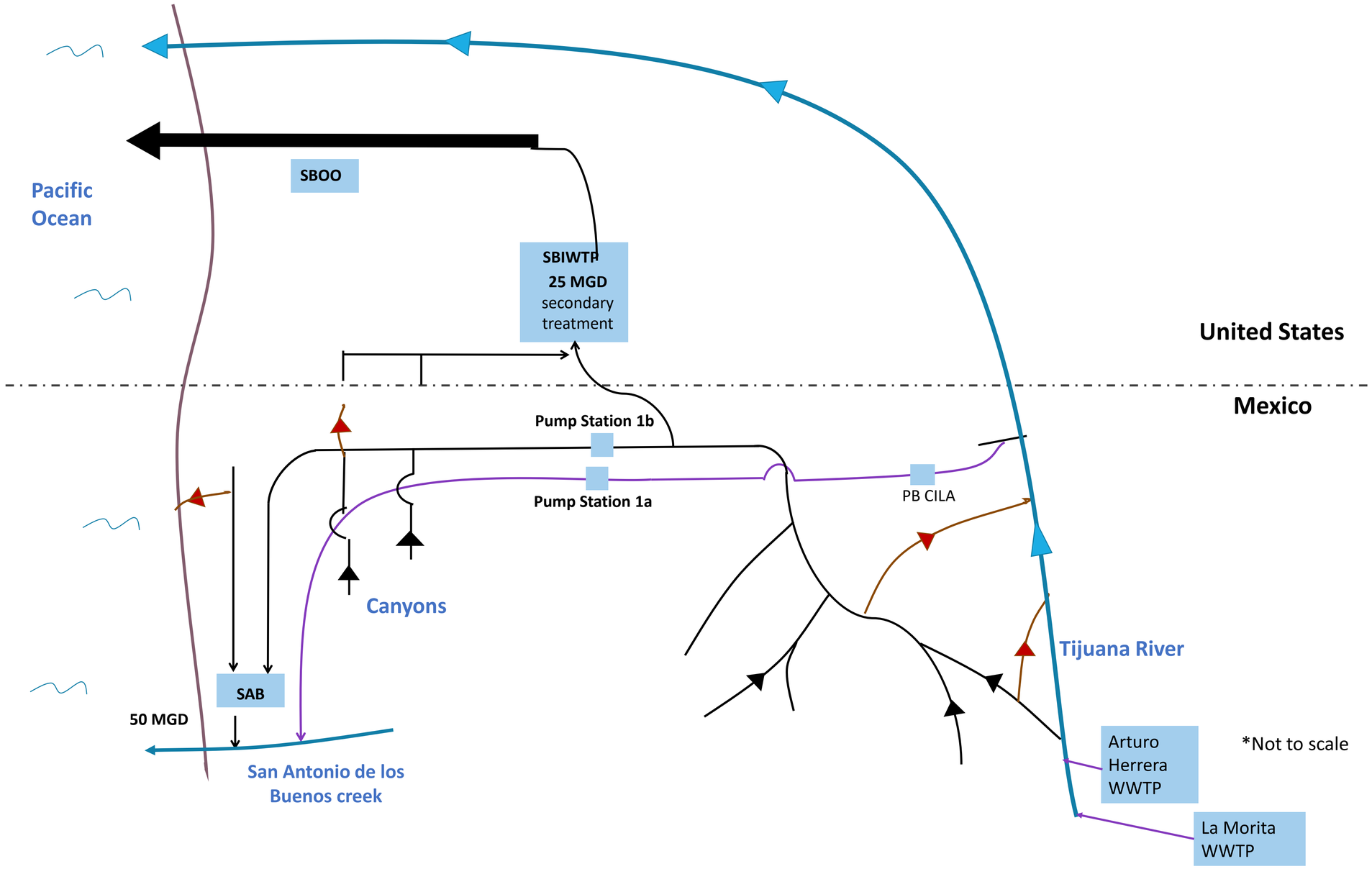


- Any clarifying questions?
- Other considerations on the project criteria?

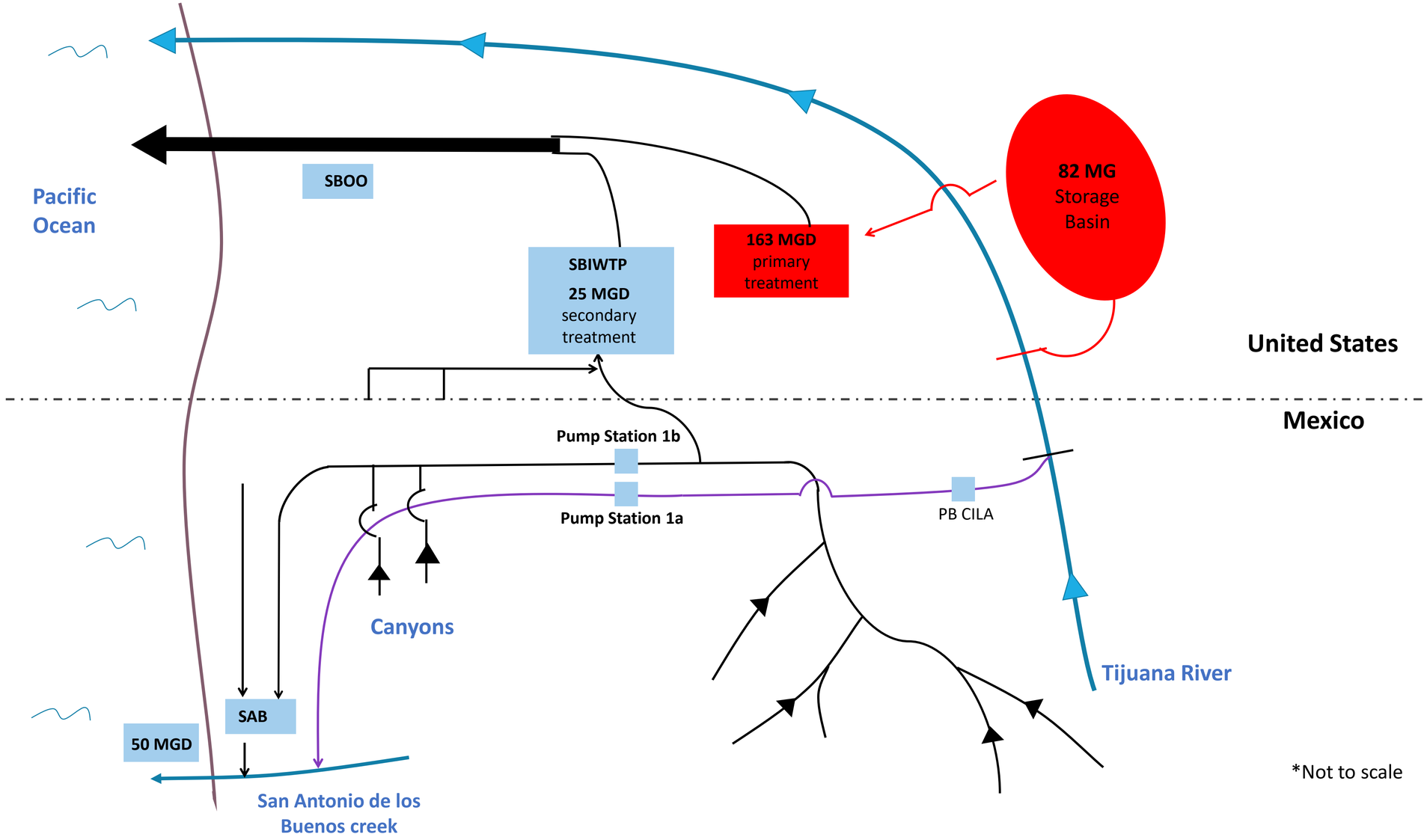
Proposed Long Term Projects

Doug Liden, Environmental Engineer, EPA Region 9

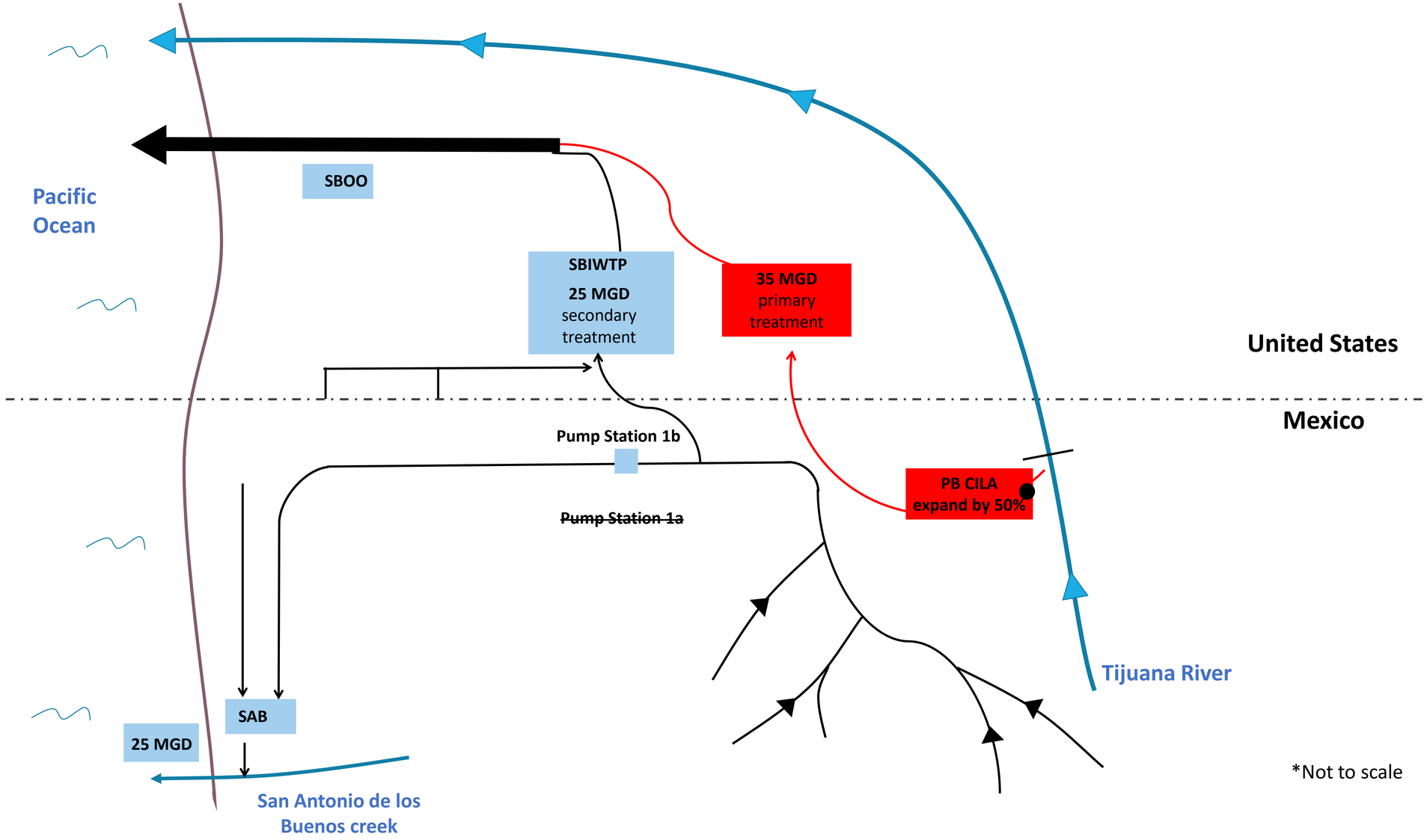
Existing System



Proposal 1: Build River Diversion and Treatment in U.S. to Reduce Transboundary River Flows (SB507)

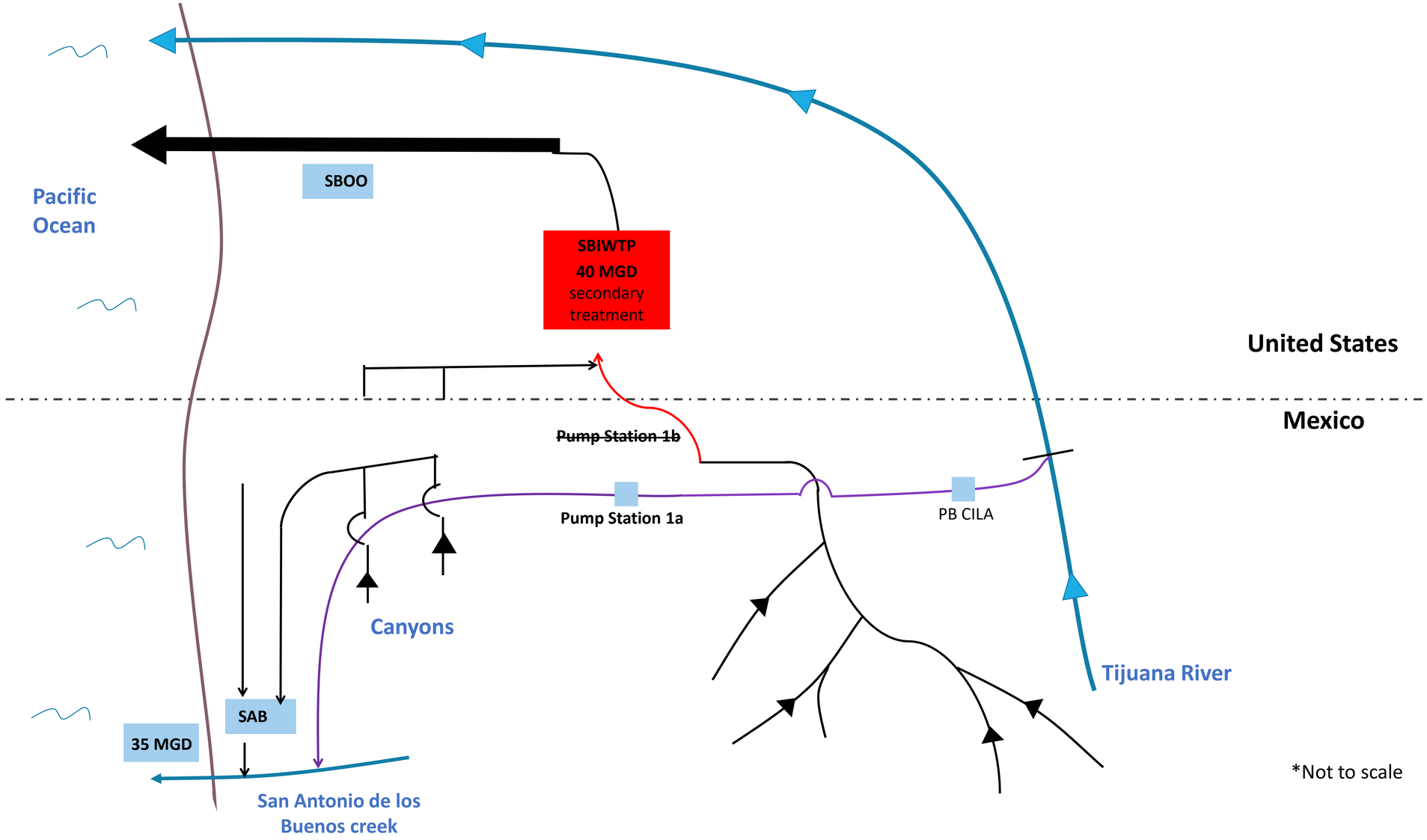


Proposal 2: Increase PBCILA Capacity, Treat All River Flows in U.S. to Reduce Transboundary River Flows into Ocean (NADB study)



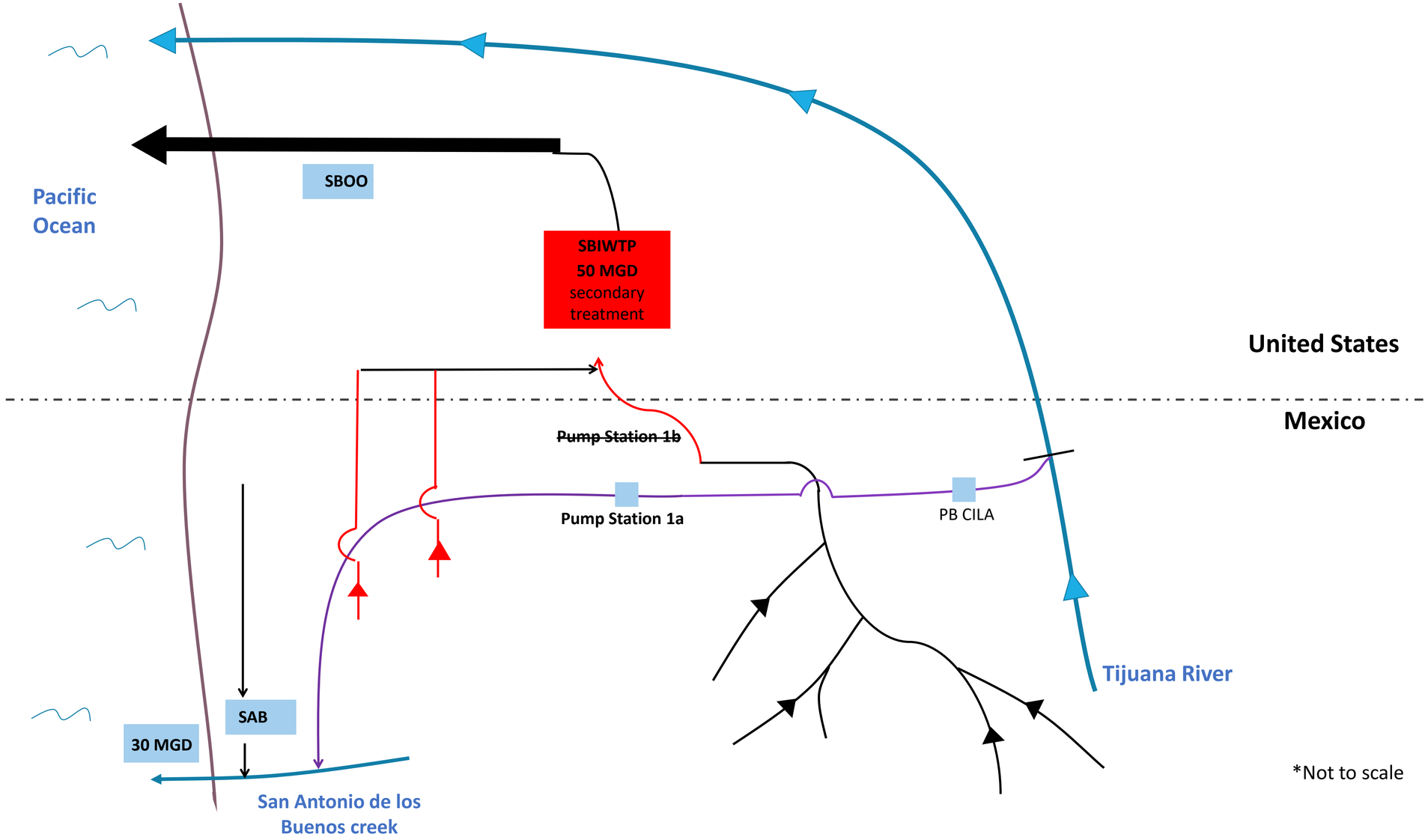
*Not to scale

Proposal 3: Expand ITP in U.S. to Reduce Sewage Flows Going to River and/or SAB



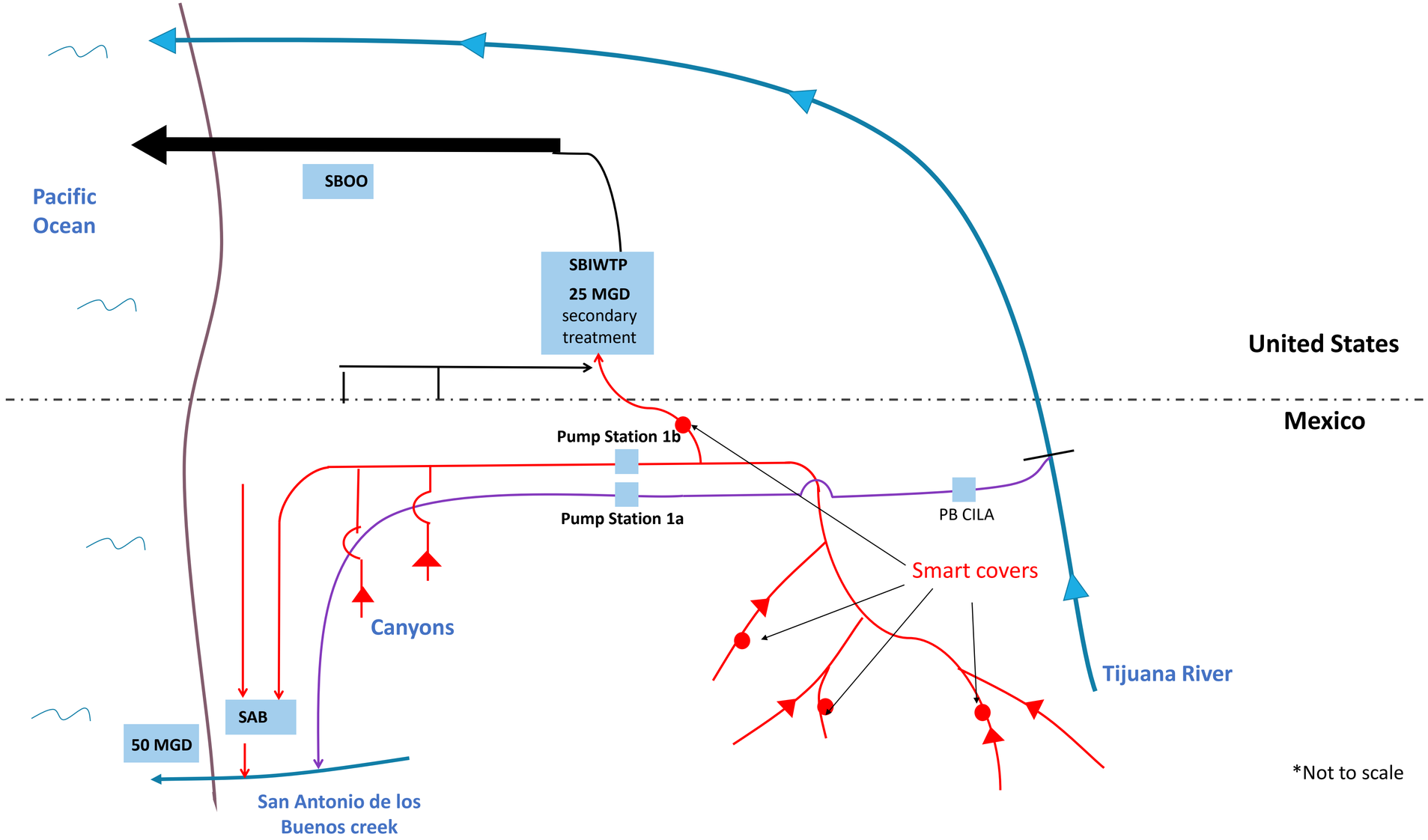
*Not to scale

Proposal 4: Expand ITP in U.S., Send Canyon Flows (Smuggler's and Goat) to ITP to Reduce Flows Going to SAB



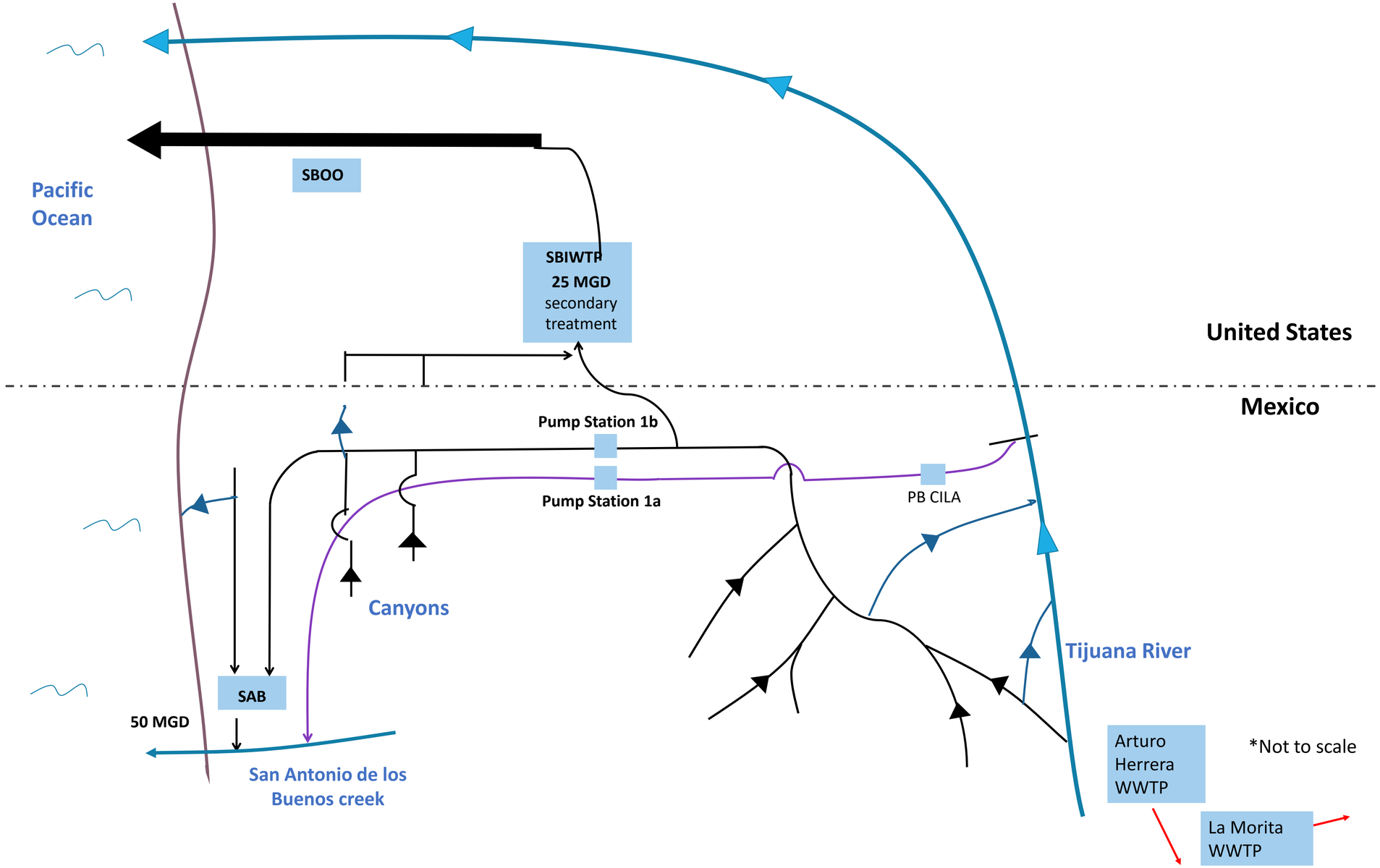
*Not to scale

Proposal 5: Repair Infrastructure in Tijuana to Eliminate Untreated Flows to River/Ocean (NADB study)

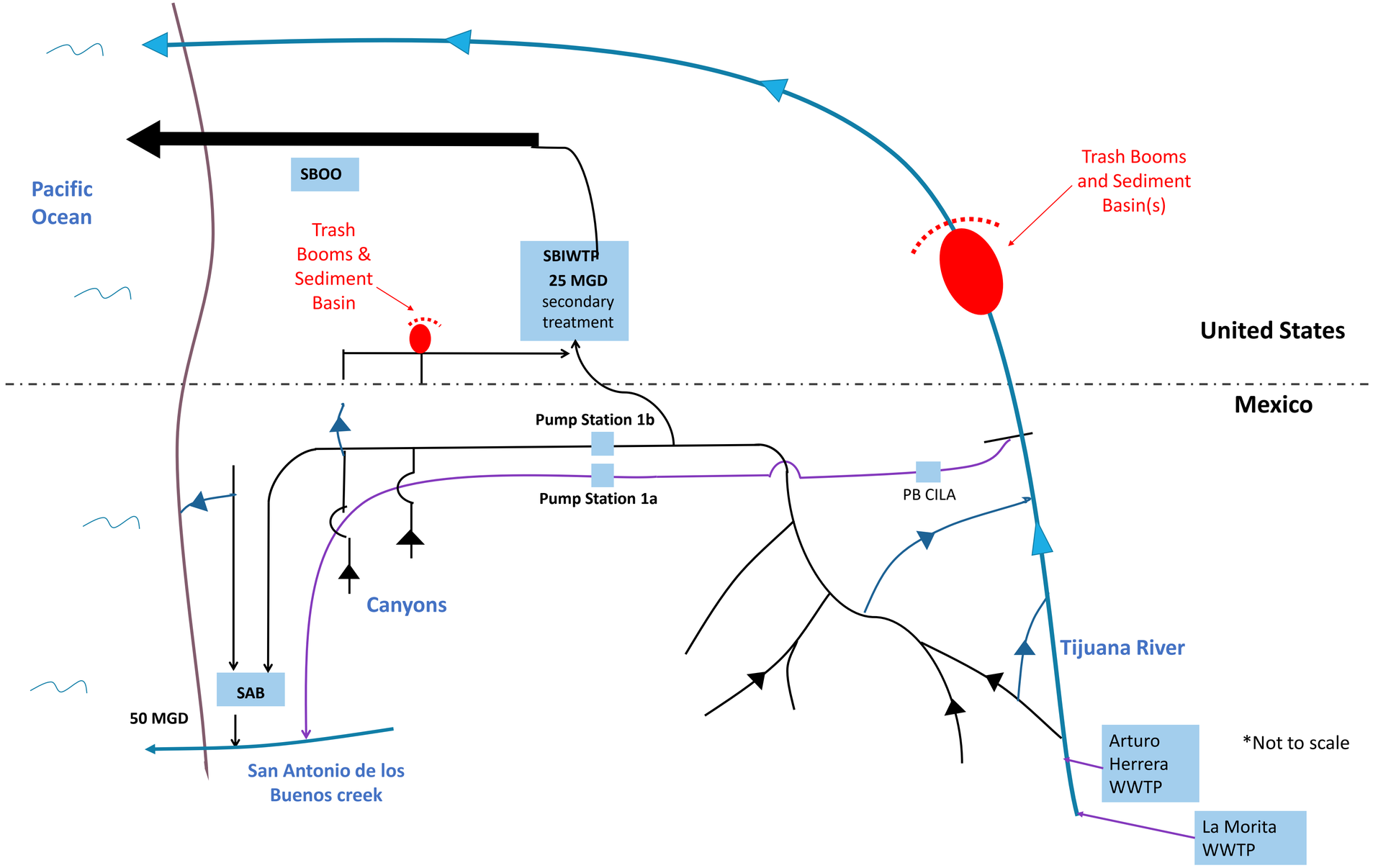


*Not to scale

Proposal 6: Wastewater Reuse in Tijuana to Reduce Transboundary Flows in River (NADB study)



Proposal 7: Sediment and Trash Devices in U.S. to Reduce Trash and Sediment Flow into Estuary and Ocean (SB507 and IBWC)



USMCA Tijuana River Infrastructure Technical Analysis Milestones

We Are Here

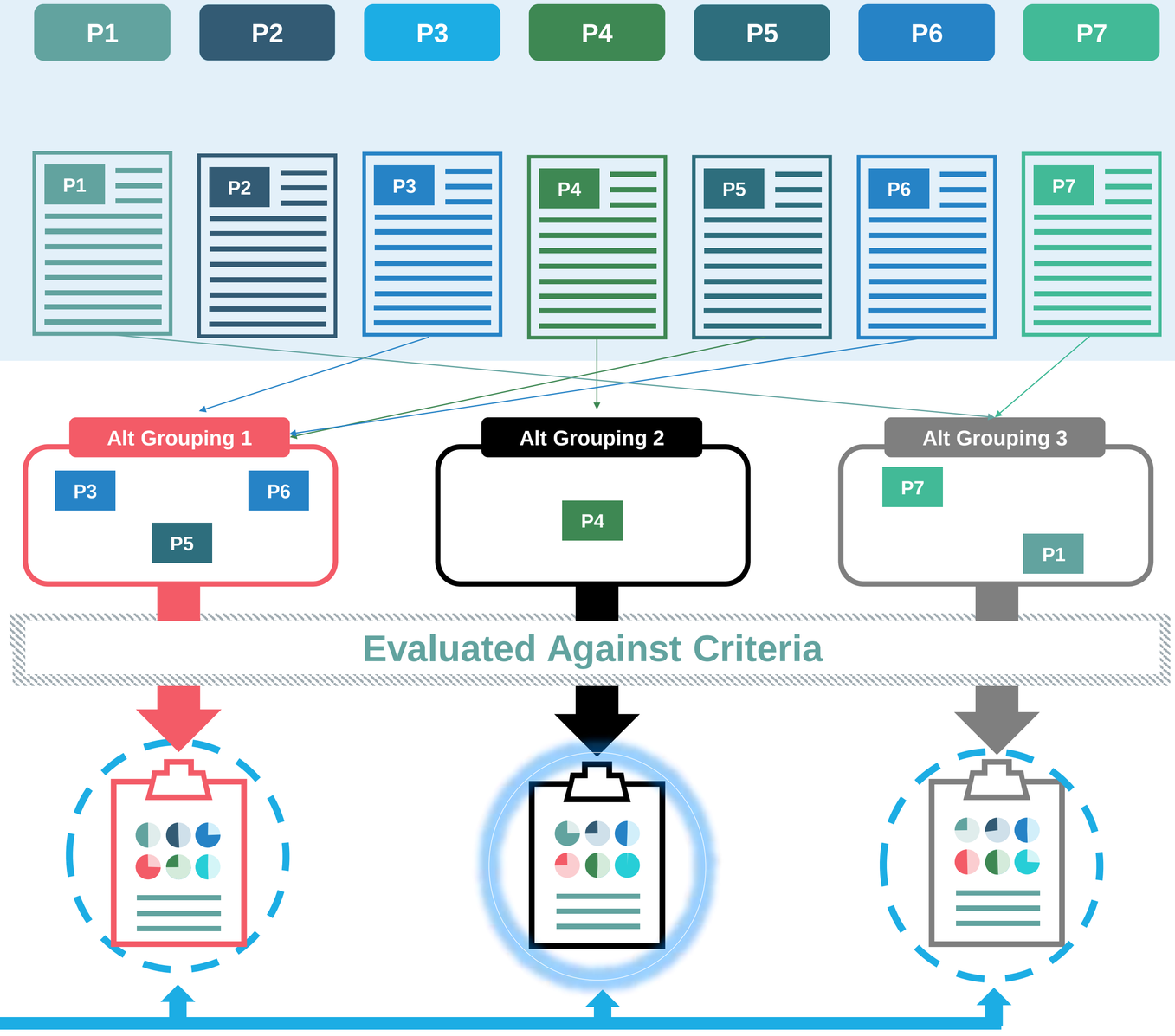
Select Potential Projects

Evaluate Potential Projects

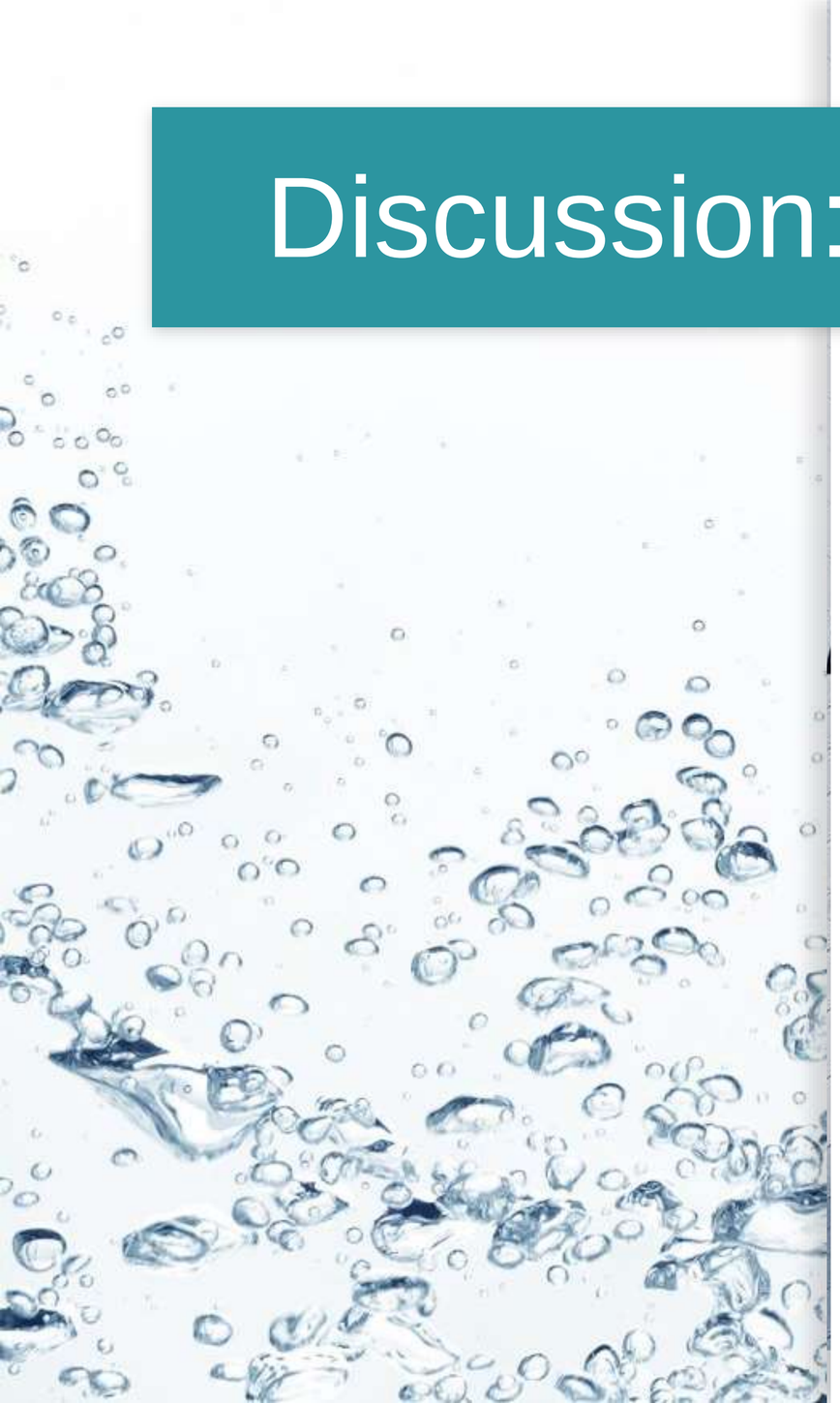
Develop Alternatives

Assess Alternatives

EPA Administrator to Select Preferred Alternative



Discussion:



- Any clarifying questions?
- Any additional considerations to better characterize and evaluate individual projects?
- Are there technical experts in your organization that should be consulted while evaluating potential projects?

Next Steps & Wrap Up

Co-Chairs

Thank you