

The State Commission for Public Services of Tijuana

Introduction

The State Commission for Public Services of Tijuana (CESPT), according to its acronym in Spanish) has as its main function to guarantee supply, sanitation and reuse of water, providing an efficient service through committed and trained staff, contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of the residents in the cities of Tijuana and Rosarito Beach. In this regard CESPT has participated in environmental improvement, including among others the following:

1. Waste Water Treatment Plants

In order to prevent negative environmental impacts from untreated wastewater discharges, the CESPT has built and operates 17 wastewater treatment plants in the municipalities of Tijuana and Rosarito Beach. Currently the sewer system collects 98% of the wastewater; well above the national average which, according to data published by the National Water Commission, which is around 50%.

In addition, the CESPT currently promotes the use of treated wastewater (known as the “purple project”) for use in irrigation of green areas, in the construction industry as well as in some industrial processes, among others.

2. Coastal Zone Monitoring

Given its geographical location in the area, CESPT actively participates with health agencies to carry out sampling and analysis of water quality along the coastal zone, in order to prevent health risks on behalf of the population that resides and visits Tijuana’s and Rosarito’s beaches.

3. Collaboration Agreement between CESPT and SPA.

The CESPT led the signing of a collaboration agreement with the Secretariat for Environmental Protection for the State of Baja California (SPA, according to its acronym in Spanish), which has authority over water discharges. The result of this agreement is the implementation of the Program for the Inspection and Surveillance over Commercial, Service and Industrial Activities, whose wastewater discharges into the sewer system in Tijuana and Rosarito Beach could potentially interfere with compliance to water quality standards according to existing regulations.

This involves activities such as visits by SPA staff to the facilities associated to above-mentioned activities, to detect potential risks of impact to the sewer system. In order to detect possible non-compliance with environmental standards, monthly samples of industrial waste water used in production processes, are collected and analyzed at a laboratory accredited by the SPA and the Mexican Accreditation Entity (EMA, according to its acronym in Spanish). In case an inconsistency should be detected, an administrative procedure is applied.

4. Manhole Monitoring Program

In anticipation of what might be discharged into the sewer system, CESPT carries out monthly monitoring activities in Tijuana and Rosarito's sewage, particularly in areas where the number of commercial, industrial and service activities are significant, seeking to identify potential sources of non-compliance with environmental regulations. These samples are analyzed in conjunction with the city of San Diego's laboratory.

5. Zero Discharge's Program.

Another of CESPT's activities is the so-called "Zero Discharge Program", which aims to identify surface sewage discharges, due to leaks, clogging or spills in the sewer system, by conducting daily field site visits.

6. Grease Trap Program

In order to raise awareness among businesses, industrial facilities and service industries in the municipalities of Tijuana and Rosarito Beach, and avoid the discharge of grease and oils which cause blockages when they are discharged into the sewer system, as well as prevent negative impacts to water bodies, CESPT, implements the Grease Trap Program. As a result, CESPT installs traps and interceptors of fats and oils are installed in these facilities and offers to provide as much technical support and site visits as are needed to achieve compliance, at no charge to these facilities.