



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

**75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901**

September 21, 2007

Daniel Borunda
U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission
4171 North Mesa Street, C-100
El Paso, Texas 79902

Subject: EPA Comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project, San Diego, California (CEQ #20070330)

Dear Mr. Borunda:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PEIS) for Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project (Tijuana River FCP), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

On Dec 10, 2004, the U.S. Section International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) published a Notice of Intent to evaluate flood control management activities for flood control projects within the Rio Grande and Tijuana River basins. The USIBWC has since determined that separate PEIS documents were more appropriate due to broad differences in geographic locations and project development and scale. The Tijuana River FCP Draft PEIS analyzes the proposed management strategy for flood control activities that may occur over the next 20 years within a 2.3 mile reach of the river just north of the U.S. / Mexico border. The Draft PEIS also considers potential flood control activities while engaging in local and regional initiatives to improve recreational or environmental opportunities. The Draft PEIS is intended to serve as the "tiering document" for future environmental documents associated with flood control activities and multipurpose recreational or environmental initiatives that the USIBWC may engage in.

Based on our review, we have rated the Draft PEIS as Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information (EC-2). A *Summary of EPA Ratings* is enclosed. EPA recognizes that the project may provide benefits by improving the control of erosion into the Tijuana River estuary and improving habitat along the channel. However, additional information and clarification is needed in the Draft PEIS to: 1) clearly differentiate the No-Build and the Build Alternatives, and 2) to describe potential actions associated with the Build Alternatives and anticipated environmental consequences.

EPA is concerned that the Draft PEIS does not sufficiently describe the maintenance activities and potential multipurpose initiatives that may be pursued and is not comprehensive

enough as a programmatic document to tier future project-level NEPA documents. Although specific initiatives for improving recreational and environmental opportunities are not currently developed at this time, the Final PEIS should clarify what specific activities associated with these actions are intended to be covered programmatically by this NEPA documentation. EPA also recommends that, for resource areas where no significant impacts are identified, the Final PEIS provide a justification of this conclusion. The justification should include measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts for each resource, where warranted. If specific measures are unknown at the program level, the Final PEIS should outline a strategy on how avoidance, minimization, and mitigation decisions would be made at the project level for each resource impact. Please see the enclosed Detailed Comments for a description of these concerns and our recommendations.

EPA supports this project and the potential environmental improvements that could be achieved by considering local and regional environmental initiatives while providing flood protection. As the intent of the PEIS is to fulfill the project goal of flood protection while minimizing environmental impacts and taking advantage of environmental and recreational opportunities, EPA recommends that USIBWC strive to incorporate best management practices and to pursue opportunities that can improve water quality and habitat to the greatest degree possible while still meeting your flood control mission.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Draft PEIS. When the Final PEIS is released for public review, please send two copies to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me or Susan Sturges, the lead reviewer for this project. Susan can be reached at 415-947-4188 or sturges.susan@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


For Nova Blazej, Manager
Environmental Review Office

Enclosures:

EPA's Detailed Comments
Summary of EPA Rating Definitions

cc: Robert Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Regulatory
Ed DeMesa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Planning
Jeff Armentrout, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Programs and
Project Management

Description of Activities and Alternatives

The U.S. Section International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) intends to apply the Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project (Tijuana River FCP) Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PEIS) as overall guidance for future evaluation of individual improvement projects that are possible or anticipated within a 20-year timeframe. The Draft PEIS evaluates maintenance improvement alternatives that would allow USIBWC to minimize potential environmental impacts and take advantage of environmental and recreational opportunities while fulfilling the project goal of flood protection.

According to the Purpose and Need for Action of the Draft PEIS, the alternatives for maintenance activities and future improvements are developed at a conceptual level and typically associated with the core mission of flood control and boundary stabilization. Future participation in local or regional recreational or environmental initiatives are measures considered feasible, but not currently envisioned for implementation. The Draft PEIS provides very broad descriptions of the Enhanced Operation and Maintenance Alternative (EOM Alternative) and the Multipurpose Project Management (MPM) Alternative. It is unclear in the Draft PEIS how the No Build Alternative (current maintenance practices) differs from the EOM Alternative and what general types of activities the USIBWC would consider under the MPM Alternative to pursue in the Tijuana River FCP. Clearly defined program alternatives are necessary to sufficiently assess impacts associated with future proposed actions.

Recommendations:

- **EOM Alternative:** Clearly differentiate how the EOM Alternative differs from the No Build Alternative in the type of activities that would occur that would not otherwise occur under the No Build Alternative. Table 2.2 (page 2-5) outlines some general anticipated changes relative to the No Action, but the proposed actions appear similar to current No Build activities. When describing proposed actions under the EOM Alternative, include a general description of anticipated timing, scale, and implementation strategy of each action and how these are different from current maintenance and operation activities.
- **MPM Alternative:** Clarify in the Final PEIS what anticipated or types of activities may be considered as potential recreational or environmental improvements to pursue and how the tiering process would apply to future projects. Explain if these activities would be considered for implementation within the 2.3 mile reach of the project area or if participation would occur outside of the project area. Section 2.5 identifies that increased vegetation development within the floodway is limited due to lack of water availability and considered undesirable in terms of U.S. Border Protection patrol operations. The Draft PEIS also states that the project does not have a capability to remove storm water

pollutants, so it is unclear what type of environmental initiatives would be considered in the project area.

- **Structural Activities:** Clarify if maintenance activities may include any structural work. Although Section 2.5.1 indicates that structural modifications, such as lateral levee relocation or acquisition of additional flood control easements, are neither anticipated nor considered viable, it is unclear if other types of structural work or hardscaping are proposed for coverage under the Build Alternatives, such as repairing or extending the concrete-lined channel or raising the height of the levees. If these activities are intended for coverage under the PEIS, they should be included and assessed for impacts in the Final PEIS. According to a telephone conversation between EPA and USIBWC on September 12, 2007, the PEIS does not intend to cover any structural work and some of document's references to possible structural work may potentially be remnants of prior text when the PEIS was intended to be geographically broader in scope. If this is the case, then references to structural repair or work in the PEIS should be removed.

Level of Analysis and Environmental Consequences

To appropriately compare alternatives and to inform decision-making, the Final PEIS should include a suitable program-level discussion of anticipated construction and operational impacts of the future maintenance activities and potential recreational or environmental enhancement activities. If the level of analysis in the PEIS is not comprehensive enough, there is a possibility of prematurely eliminating less damaging alternatives for the project-level NEPA analyses. To effectively assess environmental consequences, the document should include construction and operations actions typically associated with the future potential actions and broadly describe how impacts associated with those actions may be avoided, minimized, or if warranted, mitigated. The PEIS could also outline a strategy on how avoidance, minimization, and mitigation decisions would be made at the project level for each resource impact. If it is known at the PEIS level that an impact to a particular resource would be minimal or beneficial, then the PEIS should include justification.

Recommendations:

- To appropriately compare alternatives in the PEIS, apply a consistent impact evaluation strategy for each resource in the Final PEIS. For each resource area, specifically identify if analysis of resource impacts at the PEIS stage will, or will not, lead to informing decision-makers about avoidance of impacts in choosing how to perform flood control activities or whether to participate in a recreational or environmental initiative.
- Identify in the Final PEIS the process and/or strategies to inform decision-makers about avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures for potentially affected resources in the subsequent project-level NEPA analyses.
- If it is determined at the PEIS level that impacts to a resource would not be significant, provide justification for the minimal impacts assessment. Provide standard best

management practices that would be followed and discuss anticipated coordination with resource agencies and/or anticipated permit conditions or restrictions, to support the conclusion of no significant impacts.

- Once identified, commit to avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures in the Final PEIS and Record of Decision (ROD).

Water Quality

Storm water runoff from construction sites may facilitate the discharge of pollutants such as sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, oil and grease, and other construction chemicals and debris. Considering that wet weather flows of the Tijuana River include contaminated runoff, precautions should be taken to ensure that any construction-related activities do not further contribute to the already degraded condition. To ensure that the construction related to proposed future actions do not further contribute to the already degraded water quality in the Tijuana River system, EPA provides the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

- Provide more information in the FEIS to support the conclusion that the project will not cause or contribute to further impairment of downstream waterbodies. Describe how short term impacts associated with construction would be reduced.
- Include storm water performance standards for construction site sediment control in the Final PEIS and ROD.
- Describe how and where potentially contaminated soils from sewage pollutants and trash coming from upstream floodwaters may be safely disposed of.

Endangered Species

The Draft PEIS states that the present habitat is generally too disturbed to support threatened and endangered species and does not describe any potential negative impacts. The Draft PEIS identifies that the western edge of the Tijuana River FCP may support the federally listed least Bell's vireo. If least Bell's vireo are located in the vicinity of the project area, there is potential for impacts associated with construction activities.

Recommendation:

- Describe in the FEIS how potential impacts to least Bell's vireo in neighboring riparian habitat will be avoided or minimized, such as potential impacts associated with construction equipment noise.

Air Quality

In order to reduce maintenance and construction-related air quality impacts, EPA recommends the USIBWC consider, and discuss in the Final PEIS, opportunities for reducing impacts to air quality by reducing the use of diesel-powered equipment, requiring equipment to be fine-tuned, or using alternatively fueled vehicles. Because of the serious health effects that diesel particulate and other fine particulates can cause, we urge USIBWC to reduce particulate emissions to the greatest extent possible.

Recommendations:

Commit to specific construction emissions mitigation measures to minimize diesel particulate matter (DPM) impacts and include plans for fugitive dust control in the Final PEIS and ROD. EPA provides the following recommendations to incorporate into the Final PEIS, where feasible and applicable:

- Utilize EPA-registered particulate traps and other appropriate controls to reduce emissions of diesel particulate matter and other pollutants at the work site.
- Locate construction equipment and staging zones away from sensitive receptors such as children and the elderly as well as away from fresh air intakes to buildings and air conditioners.
- Use low sulfur fuel (diesel with 15 parts per million or less).
- Reduce use, trips, and unnecessary idling from heavy equipment.
- Lease newer and cleaner equipment (1996 or newer).
- Periodically inspect work sites to ensure construction equipment is properly maintained at all times.

SUMMARY OF EPA RATING DEFINITIONS

This rating system was developed as a means to summarize EPA's level of concern with a proposed action. The ratings are a combination of alphabetical categories for evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposal and numerical categories for evaluation of the adequacy of the EIS.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE ACTION

"LO" (Lack of Objections)

The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

"EC" (Environmental Concerns)

The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. EPA would like to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

"EO" (Environmental Objections)

The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that must be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

"EU" (Environmentally Unsatisfactory)

The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potentially unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the CEQ.

ADEQUACY OF THE IMPACT STATEMENT

Category 1" (Adequate)

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

"Category 2" (Insufficient Information)

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analysed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

"Category 3" (Inadequate)

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analysed in the draft EIS, which should be analysed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the NEPA and/or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

*From EPA Manual 1640, "Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment."



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Pacific Southwest Region
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
ER# 07/680

Submitted via Email

21 September 2007

Mr. Daniel Borunda
Environmental Protection Specialist, USIBWC
4171 N. Mesa St., C-100
El Paso, TX 79902
Danielborunda@ibwc.state.gov

Subject: Review of Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for the Improvement to the USIBWC Tijuana River Flood Control Project, San Diego County, CA

Dear Mr. Borunda:

The Department of the Interior has received and reviewed subject document and has following comments to offer:

- AG-2a Final PEIS should provide a complete description of the EOM and MPM Alternatives and should evaluate potential benefits, as well as direct and indirect impacts, to biological resources, including federally listed species and their critical habitat. Draft PEIS does not provide enough information on these alternatives for Fish and Wildlife Service to evaluate potential benefits or impacts to biological resources (e.g., least Bell's vireo).
- AG-2b If proposed project may affect federally listed species or critical habitat, consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act will be required.
- AG-2c PEIS states that increasing development of vegetation within the floodway was considered but eliminated from detailed study because of a lack of water availability and conflict with flood control mission of Tijuana FCP. However, dense riparian vegetation that supports least Bell's vireo occurs immediately downstream of project limits, and this indicates that water supply should not be a limiting factor for increased vegetation within Tijuana FCP.
- AG-2d In addition, one important function of wetlands is flood control, and increased riparian vegetation could actually benefit flood control mission of Tijuana FCP, as well as help decrease flooding threats downstream. As noted in PEIS, increased riparian vegetation could also benefit the least Bell's vireo and other federally listed and sensitive species.

AG-2e

Increasing habitat for the least Bell's vireo would help USIBWC fulfill its obligation under section 7(a)(1) of the Act to utilize its authority in furtherance of purposes of the Act by carrying out programs for conservation of species listed pursuant to the Act.

Therefore, we recommend final PEIS include increasing riparian vegetation within floodway in EOM and MPM Alternatives.

AG-2f

Draft PEIS states that vegetation in flood control channel within FCP area is controlled by mowing and discing. Final PEIS should include historical account of vegetation clearing activities in flood control channel, including dates when clearing was commenced and under what authority clearing was permitted.

AG-2g

Multiple Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) of the City of San Diego's MSCP, which delineates core biological resources areas and corridors targeted for conservation, is designated over much of Tijuana Estuary and Tijuana River Valley. FCP is partly within, adjacent to and upstream of MHPA. Final PEIS should therefore include description of consistency of the project with MSCP as well as discussion of how three alternatives address management policies and directives for Tijuana River Valley.

Refer to MSCP documentation for guidance on land use adjacency guidelines and compatible uses within MHPA. A copy of MSCP can be obtained from the City of San Diego's MSCP website: www.sandiego.gov/planning/mscp/index.shtml.

AG-2h

As part of MPM Alternative, PEIS introduces possibility of increased recreational use in FCP area. Final PEIS should adequately address both potential impacts to biological resources that may result from increased recreational activities as well as measures that would be necessary to mitigate these biological impacts.

AG-2i

Draft PEIS incorporates by reference MSCP and a number of environmental review documents for projects in vicinity of FCP, to describe biological resources along project corridor. While these documents do describe biological resources downstream from FCP, as well as in area of South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant nearby, none details biological resources in FCP area or describes downstream effects of FCP activities.

Final PEIS should include thorough description of biological resources in FCP area.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project.

Sincerely,



Patricia Sanderson Port
Regional Environmental Officer

cc:
Director, OEPC
FWS, CNO
FWS, Carlsbad



SEP 20 2007

Mr. Daniel Borunda
Environmental Management Division
USIBWC
4171 North Mesa St, C-100
El Paso, TX 79902

Dear Mr. Borunda:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has reviewed the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project. NOAA appreciates the opportunity to comment on this document.

The DPEIS has been reviewed within the areas of the NOAA's National Geodetic Survey's (NGS) geodetic responsibility, expertise, and in terms of the impact of the proposed actions on NGS activities and projects. In addition, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Region has reviewed the DPEIS. NMFS offers comments pursuant to section 305(b)(4)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

Statutory and Regulatory Information

The MSA, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, establishes a national program to manage and conserve the fisheries of the United States through the development of federal Fishery Management Plans (FMPs), and federal regulation of domestic fisheries under those FMPs, within the 200-mile U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. 16 U.S.C. §1801 et seq. To ensure habitat considerations receive increased attention for the conservation and management of fishery resources, the amended MSA requires each existing, and any new, FMP to "describe and identify essential fish habitat for the fishery based on the guidelines established by the Secretary under section 1855(b)(1)(A) of this title, minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on such habitat caused by fishing, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of such habitat." 16 U.S.C. §1853(a)(7). Essential fish habitat (EFH) is defined in the MSA as "those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity" 16 U.S.C. §1802(10). The components of this definition are interpreted at 50 C.F.R. §600.10 as follows: "Waters" include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish and may include aquatic areas historically used by fish where appropriate; "substrate" includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities; "necessary" means the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem; and "spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity" covers a species' full life cycle.

Pursuant to the MSA, each federal agency is mandated to consult with NMFS (as delegated by the Secretary of Commerce) with respect to any action authorized, funded, or undertaken, or



proposed to be, by such agency that may adversely affect any EFH under this Act. 16 U.S.C. §1855(b)(2). The MSA further mandates that where NMFS receives information from a Fishery Management Council or federal or state agency or determines from other sources that an action authorized, funded, or undertaken, or proposed to be, by any federal or state agency would adversely effect any EFH identified under this Act, NMFS has an obligation to recommend to such agency measures that can be taken by such agency to conserve EFH. 16 U.S.C. §1855(4)(A). The term “adverse effect” is interpreted at 50 C.F.R. §600.810(a) as any impact that reduces quality and/or quantity of EFH and may include direct or indirect physical, chemical, or biological alterations of the waters or substrate and loss of, or injury to, benthic organisms, prey species and their habitat, and other ecosystem components, if such modifications reduce quantity and/or quality of EFH. In addition, adverse effects to EFH may result from actions occurring within EFH or outside EFH and may include site-specific or habitat-wide impacts, including individual, cumulative, or synergistic consequences of actions.

If NMFS determines that an action would adversely affect EFH and subsequently recommends measures to conserve such habitat, the MSA proscribes that the federal action agency that receives the conservation recommendation must provide a detailed response in writing to NMFS within 30 days after receiving EFH conservation recommendations. The response must include a description of measures proposed by the agency for avoiding, mitigating, or offsetting the impact of the activity on EFH. In the case of a response that is inconsistent with NMFS EFH conservation recommendations, the federal agency must explain its reasons for not following the recommendations. 16 U.S.C. §1855(b)(4)(B).

Proposed Action

Three potential project alternatives are described in the DPEIS for Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project. These are a no action alternative, an enhanced operation and maintenance alternative (EOM), and a multipurpose project management alternative (MPM). The no action alternative involves a continuation of current management and operations and maintenance practices, including actions planned or identified for short-term implementation. The EOM alternative includes improvements to the levee system, and floodway maintenance activities, namely channel maintenance and sediment removal and disposal. The MPM provides additional sediment control above the EOM alternative. Additionally, it includes measures for additional floodway utilization for purposes other than optimization of flood control. These additional purposes are participation through cooperative agreements in local environmental initiatives to be implemented and managed by other agencies or organizations.

Action Area and Potential Impacts to EFH

The action area described in the DPEIS is the United States portion of the Tijuana River, extending 2.3 miles from the international boundary to the start of the natural Tijuana River channel in San Diego County, CA. The Tijuana River empties into the Tijuana Estuary, which is considered to be a habitat area of particular concern (HAPC). HAPC are described in the regulations as subsets of EFH which are rare, particularly susceptible to human-induced degradation, especially ecologically important, or located in an environmentally stressed area. Designated HAPC are not afforded any additional regulatory protection under MSA; however, federal projects with potential adverse impacts to HAPC will be more carefully scrutinized during the consultation process. Because two of the project alternatives identify removal of

upstream sediment as part of their project activities, they have the potential to reduce impacts to EFH from the existing operation of the Tijuana River Flood Control Project. However, because of the programmatic level of review, it is difficult to determine how each alternative would impact EFH.

Our current primary habitat concern in the Tijuana Estuary is a loss of wetland habitat due to the accumulation of sediment within the estuary. The Tijuana River is a highly channelized river with much of its banks surrounded by unstable cliffs. These highly erosion-prone areas have significantly contributed to sedimentation problems in the estuary and subsequent loss of wetland habitat. Two of the three project alternatives would likely reduce sediment delivery to the Tijuana Estuary thus offering some increased protection to remaining wetland habitat.

Based upon the project alternative descriptions, NMFS believes the proposed project could affect EFH for various federally-managed species within the Pacific Coast Groundfish and Coastal Pelagics FMPs due to alterations to sediment delivery. However, it is difficult to evaluate the impacts of each alternative given the programmatic level of detail associated with this document. It is our understanding that each improvement project that is proposed for implementation during the 20-year planning period will include project specific environmental review. During this subsequent review period NMFS will be better able to determine what impacts, if any, specific projects may have on EFH. Nevertheless, from the information provided in the document, the MPM alternative appears to be the superior alternative because of its enhanced sediment control as compared to the other two alternatives. This could result in reductions in filling of wetlands benefiting EFH for species listed in the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP.

Ultimately, when site-specific projects are proposed for implementation, an "EFH Assessment" will be required as part of the federal permitting process. That assessment is a review of the proposed project and its potential impacts to EFH. Oftentimes, the permitting agency will require the applicant to prepare the EFH Assessment for NMFS. Therefore, NMFS offers the following suggestions for the preparation of the EFH Assessment. As set forth in the regulations, EFH Assessments must include (1) a description of the proposed action; (2) an analysis of the effects, including cumulative effects, of the action on EFH, the managed species, and associated species by life history stage; (3) the federal agency's views regarding the effects of the action on EFH; and (4) proposed mitigation.

Geodetic Control Monuments

If there are any planned activities that will disturb or destroy geodetic control monuments, NGS requires notification not less than 90 days in advance of such activities in order to plan for their relocation. NGS recommends that funding for this project includes the cost of any required relocation(s).

All available geodetic control information about horizontal and vertical geodetic control monuments in the subject area is contained on the homepage of NGS at the following Internet address: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov>. After entering this website, please access the topic "Products and Services" then "Data Sheet." This menu item will allow you to directly access geodetic control monument information from the NGS database for the subject area project. This

information should be reviewed for identifying the location and designation of any geodetic control monuments that may be affected by the proposed project.

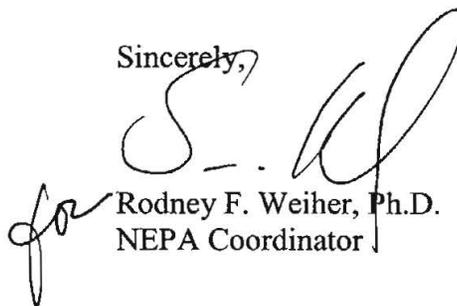
These comments originate from two Offices within NOAA: the National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Regional Office and the National Ocean Service's National Geodetic Survey. The contacts for these offices respectively are:

Jennifer Pettis
Marine Habitat Resource Specialist
NOAA NMFS SWRO
8604 La Jolla Shores Dr, Rm T2
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We hope our comments will assist you. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,



Rodney F. Weiher, Ph.D.
NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure
cc: (via electronic mail)
NOS/NGS, Harm
SWRO, Hoffman
SWRO, Pettis

From: <Ayoola_Folarin@fws.gov>
To: <danielborunda@ibwc.state.gov>
Date: 09/11/2007 4:57 PM
Subject: Tijuana River Flood Control Project

AG-4a

Hello,

I am reviewing the Tijuana River Flood Control Project PEIR for the Fish and Wildlife Service, and I am trying to find out when vegetation clearing in the FCP area began and under what authority it was permitted. Please let me know if you have this information, or know of where I might be able to find it.

Thank you very much for your time,
-Ayoola Folarin.

Ayoola Folarin
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, California 92011
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September 14, 2007

Daniel Borunda
Environmental Protection Specialist
Environmental Management Division
USIBWC
4171 North Mesa, C-100
El Paso, TX 79902

Subject: Draft Programmatic EIS for Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project

Dear Mr. Borunda:

The Coastal Commission staff reviewed the above-referenced document and submits the following comments. The Tijuana River flood control project, extending from the international border to the Pacific Ocean, is located within the state's coastal zone. Over the years, the Coastal Commission has reviewed numerous consistency and negative determinations from the IBWC, Corps of Engineers, and other federal agencies for development in this area. The Commission has also reviewed numerous coastal development permits for non-federal agency development in the Tijuana River Valley. Should the IBWC propose to construct future improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project that would affect the coastal zone, the IBWC is required to prepare and submit a consistency determination to the Commission for that activity. Information on the contents of a consistency determination can be found at the Commission's website, www.coastal.ca.gov. Please contact me at (415) 904-5288 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LARRY SIMON".

Larry Simon
Federal Consistency Coordinator

cc: CCC – San Diego Coast District



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region

Over 50 Years Serving San Diego, Orange, and Riverside Counties

Recipient of the 2004 Environmental Award for Outstanding Achievement from USEPA



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

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September 24, 2007

USIBWC
4171 N. Mesa, C-100
El Paso, TX 79902

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PROGRAMMATIC EIS, TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT (SCH#: 2007084004)

Dear Mr. Rorunda:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Programmatic EIS for the Tijuana Flood Control Project. The project may affect the following water body(ies): Tijuana River.

Our comments are submitted in compliance with CEQA *Guidelines* §15096, which requires CEQA responsible agencies to specify the scope and content of the environmental information germane to their statutory responsibilities, and for lead agencies to include that information in their Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project. The Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) regulate discharges, which could affect the water quality of the state.

Our comments focus primarily on the water resources, wetlands and aquatic ecosystems, and water quality and sediment control aspects of the proposed project. Specific technical comments are included in Enclosure 1, *Comments to the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement: Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project*.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment. If we may clarify any of our comments or be of further assistance, please contact Mrs. Lilian Busse, at 858-467-2971 or at lbusse@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

JOHN R. ODERMATT, P.G.
Senior Engineering Geologist

California Environmental Protection Agency

Enclosure 1

cc:

Mr. Charles F. Raysbrook
Regional Manager
South Coast Region
Department of Fish and Game
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

Dave Castenon, Acting Chief
Regulatory Section
Los Angeles District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
300 North Los Angeles Street, Room 6062
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tim Vendlinski, Chief (WTR-8)
Wetlands Regulatory Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Enclosure 1

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Comments to the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project
Sept. 24, 2007, Lilian Busse, Environmental Scientist

Page	Comments
Page 2-4 Line 6-8	Is it necessary to mow both north and south side 3-5 times per year? Is less mowing an alternative, as well as alternating the north and south site? Less mowing may support the beneficial uses of TJ River.
Page 2-4 Line 9-10	Is there a need to dispose the sediment downstream of the energy dissipater? Do permits (401/404 and waste discharge requirements) are needed and/or exist for that? Is there a monitoring program in place to study the effects of the sediment deposition?
Page 2-6 Line 5-10	Is there a possibility to treat the storm water during storm events?
Tab 2-3	EOM Alternative for water resources: what are the small scale changes?
Tab 2-3	Wetlands and aquatic ecosystems: The TJ River is an ephemeral stream. Ephemeral streams have important biological and ecological functions.
Tab 2-3	Cumulative Impacts: Water Quality and Sediment Control Projects: Is the placement of dredged sediment downstream of the energy dissipater a source of pollutants? Why is the sediment removal only a minor addition to sediment control?
Page 3-9 Line 1-2	What about ephemeral streams, these are Waters of the State.
Page 4-2 Line 1-10	Is there a possibility to treat the storm water during storm events?
Page 4-2 Line 10-17	Less mowing (less frequent, alternate north and south side) may support the beneficial uses of TJ River and therefore may have a significant impact.
Page 4-2 Line 18-31	The beneficial impact for wildlife and habitat conservation for the MPM Alternative may support the beneficial uses of the TJ River and therefore may have a significant impact.
Page 4-3 Line 31-36	The placement of sediment downstream of the energy dissipater may have a negative impact on the wetlands at the mouth of TJ River.
Page 4-4 Line 27-30	The EOM Alternative may have a positive impact on the ephemeral streams, and would better support the beneficial uses of TJ River.
Page 4-5 Line 1-4	The wetlands at the mouth of the river might be positively impacted by less mowing, and less sediment placement.
Page 4-13 Line 22-23	Is that correct that the TJ River flood control has no capability to improve water quality – more vegetation might improve water quality. Also, if sediment would not be placed downstream, maybe there will be an improvement of water quality.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
 (916) 653-4082
 Fax (916) 657-5390
 Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov



September 6, 2007

Mr. Daniel Berunda
 Environmental Management Division

USIBWC

4171 North Mesa Street, C-100
 El Paso, Texas

Re: SCH#2007084004: Notice of Completion: NEPA draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project, San Diego County, California

Dear Mr. Berunda:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced document. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA). In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the area of project effect (APE), and if so, to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess the project-related impacts on historical resources, the Commission recommends the following action for California-based projects:

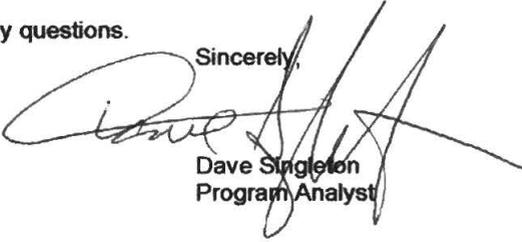
- √ Contact the appropriate California Historic Resources Information Center (CHRIS). The record search will determine:
 - If a part or the entire APE) has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
 - If any known cultural resources have already been recorded in or adjacent to the APE.
 - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
 - If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
- √ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
 - The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure.
 - The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.
 - √ You have had your consulting firm contact this office for a Sacred Lands File search; no cultural resources were identified in the project area (APE).
 - The NAHC recommends that contact be made with Native American Contacts on the attached list to get their input on potential project impact.
- √ Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.
 - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5 (f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
 - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
- √ Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains or unmarked cemeteries in their mitigation plans.
 - * NEPA Guidelines requires the lead agency to work with the Native Americans that may be affected by the project. If the EA identifies the presence or likely presence of Native American human remains within the APE, the NAHC, recommends appropriate and dignified treatment of Native American human remains and any associated grave liens. Please consider those guidelines even though the project was reviewed under NEPA.
- √ California Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98 and Sec. §15064.5 (d) of the CEQA Guidelines mandate procedures to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a

location other than a dedicated cemetery. Please consider those procedures even though this project is governed by the National Environmental Policy Act.

✓ Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in § 15370 of the CEQA Guidelines even though this is a NEPA Environmental Assessment, should significant cultural resources are discovered during the course of project execution.

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-6251 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Singleton", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Cc: State Clearinghouse
Attachment: List of Native American Contacts

Native American Contacts
San Diego County
September 6, 2007

Barona Group of the Capitan Grande
Rhonda Welch-Scalco, Chairperson
1095 Barona Road Diegueno
Lakeside , CA 92040
sue@barona-nsn.gov
(619) 443-6612
619-443-0681

San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
Allen E. Lawson, Chairperson
PO Box 365 Diegueno
Valley Center , CA 92082
(760) 749-3200
(760) 749-3876 Fax

Ewiiapaayp Tribal Office
Harlan Pinto, Sr., Chairperson
PO Box 2250 Kumeyaay
Alpine , CA 91903-2250
wmicklin@leaningrock.net
(619) 445-6315 - voice
(619) 445-9126 - fax

Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueno Indians
Johnny Hernandez, Spokesman
PO Box 130 Diegueno
Santa Ysabel , CA 92070
brandietaylor@yahoo.com
(760) 765-0845
(760) 765-0320 Fax

La Posta Band of Mission Indians
Gwendolyn Parada, Chairperson
PO Box 1120 Diegueno
Boulevard , CA 91905
(619) 478-2113
619-478-2125

Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
Danny Tucker, Chairperson
5459 Sycuan Road Diegueno/Kumeyaay
El Cajon , CA 92021
ssilva@sycuan-nsn.gov
619 445-2613
619 445-1927 Fax

Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation
Leroy J. Elliott, Chairperson
PO Box 1302 Kumeyaay
Boulevard , CA 91905
(619) 766-4930
(619) 766-4957 Fax

Viejas Band of Mission Indians
Bobby L. Barrett, Chairperson
PO Box 908 Diegueno/Kumeyaay
Alpine , CA 91903
daguilar@viejas-nsn.gov
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(619) 445-5337 Fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native American with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2007084004; NEPA draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Programmatic EIS Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; San Diego County location, California.

Native American Contacts

San Diego County

September 6, 2007

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(619) 478-5818 Fax

Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians
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Pine Valley, CA 91962
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Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians
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Inaja Band of Mission Indians
Rebecca Osuna, Spokesperson
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(760) 737-7628
(760) 747-8568 Fax

Pala Band of Mission Indians
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Pala, CA 92059 Cupeno
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(760) 742-1411 Fax

Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee
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Lakeside, CA 92040
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(619) 443-0681 FAX

Pauma & Yuima
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Pauma Valley, CA 92061
paumareservation@aol.com
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(760) 742-3422 Fax

Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueno Indians
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(760) 765-0320 Fax

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This list is only applicable for contacting local Native American with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2007084004; NEPA draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Programmatic EIS Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; San Diego County location, California.

Native American Contacts
San Diego County
September 6, 2007

Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueno Indians
Rodney Kephart, Environmental Coordinator
PO Box 130 Diegueno
Santa Ysabel , CA 92070
syirod@aol.com
(760) 765-0845

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Sydney Morris, Environmental Coordinator
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El Cajon , CA 92021
(619) 445-2613
(619) 445-1927-Fax

Ewiiapaayp Tribal Office
Michael Garcia, Vice-Chairman/EPA Director
PO Box 2250 Kumeyaay
Alpine , CA 91903-2250
michaalg@leaningrock.net
(619) 445-6315 - voice
(619) 445-9126 - fax

Manzanita Band of Mission Indians
ATTN: Keith Adkins, EPA Director
PO Box 1302 Kumeyaay
Boulevard , CA 91905
(619) 766-4930
(619) 766-4957 Fax

Clint Linton
P.O. Box 507 Diegueno/Kumeyaay
Santa Ysabel , CA 92070
(760) 803-5694
cjlinton73@aol.com

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



CYNTHIA BRYANT
DIRECTOR

September 25, 2007

Daniel Borunda
U.S. International Boundary And Water Commission
4171 N Mesa, C-100
El Paso, TX 79902

Subject: Tijuana River Flood Control Project
SCH#: 2007084004

Dear Daniel Borunda:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Draft EIS to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on September 24, 2007, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2007084004
Project Title Tijuana River Flood Control Project
Lead Agency U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission

Type EIS Draft EIS
Description The USIBWC anticipates the need to improve capabilities or functionality of the Tijuana River Flood Control Project. Improvement measures associated with the project core mission of flood protection and boundary stabilization are evaluated under the Enhanced Operation and Maintenance (EOM) Alternative, while measures in support of local or regional initiatives for increased utilization of the project or to improve environmental conditions are evaluated under the Multipurpose Project Management (MPM) Alternative.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Daniel Borunda
Agency U.S. International Boundary And Water Commission
Phone 915-832-4767 **Fax**
email
Address 4171 N Mesa, C-100
City El Paso **State** TX **Zip** 79902

Project Location

County San Diego
City San Diego
Region
Cross Streets Dairy Mart Road (2225)
Parcel No.

Township	Range	Section	Base
-----------------	--------------	----------------	-------------

Proximity to:

Highways 805
Airports
Railways
Waterways Tijuana River Floodplain from US/ Mexico border
Schools
Land Use No change in land use. Improvements to existing federal flood control project (undeveloped flood plain with maintained grassed areas and agricultural areas).

Project Issues Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Cumulative Effects; Drainage/Absorption; Economics/Jobs; Flood Plain/Flooding; Landuse; Noise; Recreation/Parks; Vegetation

Reviewing Agencies Caltrans, District 11; California Highway Patrol; Department of Conservation; Department of Water Resources; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Office of Historic Preservation; Native American Heritage Commission; Office of Emergency Services; Department of Parks and Recreation; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 9; Resources Agency

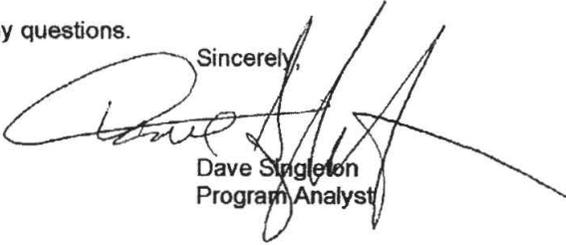
Date Received 08/17/2007 **Start of Review** 08/17/2007 **End of Review** 09/24/2007

location other than a dedicated cemetery. Please consider those procedures even though this project is governed by the National Environmental Policy Act.

√ Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in § 15370 of the CEQA Guidelines even though this is a NEPA Environmental Assessment, should significant cultural resources are discovered during the course of project execution.

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-6251 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Singleton", is written over the typed name and title.

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Cc: State Clearinghouse

Attachment: List of Native American Contacts



County of San Diego

ERIC GIBSON
INTERIM DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE

5201 RUFFIN ROAD, SUITE B, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123-1666
INFORMATION (858) 694-2960
TOLL FREE (800) 411-0017

September 24, 2007

Mr. Daniel Borunda
Environmental Protection Specialist
Environmental Management Division, USIBWC
4171 North Mesa Street, C-100
El Paso, Texas 79902

Comments on the Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

The County of San Diego has reviewed the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project dated August 2007 and appreciates this opportunity to comment. The Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU), Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and Department of Environmental Health (DEH) staff have completed their review and offer the following comments regarding the content of the above document:

General Comments

- 1 AG-9a The County DPR prefers the Multipurpose Project Management Alternative, which, if implemented as proposed, provides for continued USIBWC participation in wildlife habitat conservation initiatives in relation to the County Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP) Trail and Enhancement Project, improved habitat for sensitive riparian species on the western edge of the project, and improvements to sediment control benefiting wetlands in the TRVRP.

AG-9a
(cont.)

2. As an adjacent landowner, the County DPR would like to be notified of any future actions regarding this project and to participate in the coordination of the chosen project alternative.

Specific Comments

Section 2.0, Description of Alternatives

3. Page 2-4, Lines 9-10 and 24-25. The County recommends including a detailed description of the location where sediment will be disposed of on USIBWC property under the No-Action Alternative. Reading the description of the excess sediment disposal area "downstream of the energy dissipater... in the floodplain on USIBWC property" it seems the sediment will be placed just east of Dairy Mart Road. If this is the case, there will be potential for water flow from the flood channel carrying this excess sediment off-site onto the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park owned by the County DPR directly west of the project area and Dairy Mart Road. In the event this sediment disposal location is correct, the County recommends trucking the sediment off-site to prevent potential movement onto the Park.

4. Page 2-4, Lines 33 and 34. The Enhanced Operation and Maintenance alternative section mentions small-scale changes to extent or timing of vegetation removal in the channel in association with floodway maintenance with no description of these changes. The County recommends including a description of the small-scale changes under the discussion of the Enhanced Operation and Maintenance (EOM) Alternative.

5. Page 2-5, Table 2.2. In regards to sediment and debris removal, under the "Anticipated Change Relative to the No-Action Alternative" column states "changes in location, extent or timing are possible to improve project functionality". Does the reference to "changes in location" refer to a change in the sediment disposal locations? In addition there is no explanation of "changes in extent or timing". The County recommends including a description of these actions for both the EOM and Multipurpose Project Management (MPM) Alternatives.

Section 4.0, Environmental Consequences

AG-9e

6. Page 4-5, Lines 3-10. This paragraph is confusing. Clearing of vegetation should be more fully described to identify the type of vegetation that will need to be removed. It is not clear whether only non-native species would be removed or if the removal is of all species in some areas.

AG-9f

7. All Vegetation Sections. Please use the "Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California" (Holland 1986) to describe the vegetation types.

AG-9g

Pages 4-4 and 4-5, Vegetation Sections. Removal of non-natives from riparian habitat may allow the growth of riparian species, which in San Diego County, is only assured if the non-native vegetation removal is repeated until the natives can become established or if the area is planted with natives. One time removal usually is not adequate to eliminate non-native species. Please describe the vegetation removal program more fully.

9. Page 4.4, Lines 8-10. The sentence "If vegetation removal occurs in areas adjacent to grassland areas, due to the surrounding regional vegetation, it is likely that these areas would become non-native grassland due to seral succession" is confusing; it does not state what kind of vegetation would be removed and does not explain how, in San Diego County, seral succession would result in non-native grassland. Please explain whether "surrounding regional vegetation" is the native vegetation (coastal sage scrub or riparian species) or non-native grasslands. Removing Diegan coastal sage scrub/chaparral or riparian habitat in order to create non-native grassland would be a potentially significant impact of the project, even if the removal resulted in raptor foraging habitat. Raptors also forage over coastal sage scrub and many raptors roost and nest in riparian trees, so these vegetation types are also important to raptors. Please explain more fully how the project can improve the vegetation, basing the explanation on the characteristics and conditions of native vegetation in riparian and shrubland habitats of coastal southern California.

AG-9h

AG-9i

10. Page 4-5, Lines 14 and 15. Please describe the proposed sediment control programs and how will they prevent degradation of downstream communities within Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. A discussion of the sediment control programs proposed under the MPM alternative and how plant communities within the Park will benefit is recommended.

September 24, 2007

AG-9i
(cont.)

Page 4-13, Lines 26 and 27. Throughout the document there is no reference to sediment disposal locations outside of the floodway. If there are proposed off-site sediment disposal locations the County recommends including a discussion of these locations within the document.

The County of San Diego appreciates the opportunity to participate in the environmental review process for this project. If you have any questions or comments please contact Bobbie Stephenson at (858) 694-3680 or e-mail bobbie.stephenson@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



ERIC GIBSON, Interim Director
Department of Planning and Land Use

cc: Priscilla Jaszkwiaak, Administrative Secretary, Department of Planning and Land Use, M.S. O650
Maeve Hanley, Department of Parks and Recreation, M.S O29
Bobbie Stephenson, Department of Planning and Land Use, M.S. O650



County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

JOHN L. SNYDER
DIRECTOR

5555 OVERLAND AVE, SUITE 2188
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123-1295
(858) 694-2212 FAX: (858) 268-0461
Web Site: sdcdpw.org

August 24, 2007

Mr. Daniel Borunda
Environmental Protection Specialist
Environmental Management Division, USIBWC
4171 N Mesa, C-100
El Paso, TX 79902

Dear Mr. Borunda,

I recently received your draft publication, "*Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project*". While not qualified to comment on most of the content of the document, there was one item that came to my attention.

On page 3-1, the publication states that the 1916 flood, estimated at 75,000 cfs in the United States side of the Tijuana River, was the equivalent of a 100-yr flood (1% chance occurrence). I have no problem with this statement, as it is fully documented by the USGS. However, on page 3-2, the report states that the river in Mexico was converted to a concrete channel upstream from the border to the Rio Alamar and was designed to convey the 500-yr flood (0.2% chance occurrence) of 15,000 cfs. I see a serious discrepancy here in that a 500-yr flood on the Mexico side of the border is considered to be 20% of what the United States considers a 100-yr flood immediately on the other side of the border.

Several possibilities present themselves as to this discrepancy: 1. The least likely possibility is that the 500-yr flood magnitude in Mexico was miscalculated by their engineers and the channel is therefore significantly under-designed; 2. The wrong engineering units are being used in the report and it should be 15,000 cms (cubic meters per second); 3. a digit is missing from the number, and should be something more like 115,000 cfs or 150,000 cfs.; or 4. The channel was designed to the 50-year flood rather than the 500-year flood. You might want to check out this discrepancy before publication.

Sincerely,



Rand Allan
Associate Meteorologist
County of San Diego Flood Control
Watershed Protection Program
5555 Overland Ave, Bldg 2 MS O384
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 495-5557
Rand.allan@sdcounty.ca.gov



County of San Diego

RAND ALLAN
ASSOCIATE METEOROLOGIST
FLOOD CONTROL - HYDROLOGY
ALERT STORM/DATA SYSTEM

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San Diego, CA 92123-1295

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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Rand.Allan@sdcounty.ca.gov
<http://sdccfd.org>



*The City Of
Imperial
Beach*

(619) 423-8301
FAX: (619) 628-1395

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
825 IMPERIAL BEACH BOULEVARD • IMPERIAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA 91932



September 13, 2007

Daniel Borunda
Environmental Management Division
USIBWC
4171 N. Mesa Street #C-100
El Paso, TX 79902

Dear Mr. Borunda:

At the 6:00 p.m. meeting to be held on September 19, 2007 in the City Council Chambers, located at 825 Imperial Beach Blvd., Imperial Beach, California, the Imperial Beach City Council will receive a report regarding the Tijuana River Flood Control Project Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

If you wish to speak on this issue, please fill out and submit a *Request to Speak* form and speak at the time the item is considered. Presentations before the City Council are for three (3) minutes unless the Mayor grants additional time.

Council votes are recorded on an electronic voting system and all votes appear simultaneously for Council and the public to view. A green light indicates a "Yes" vote, a red light indicates a "No" vote, and a yellow light indicates "Abstain."

The City of Imperial Beach is endeavoring to be in total compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require assistance or auxiliary aids in order to participate at City Council meetings, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (619) 423-8301 as far in advance of the meeting as possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact City Planner Jim Nakagawa at (619) 628-1355.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline M. Hald, CMC
City Clerk

Enclosures: Agenda, Staff Report 7.3



**STAFF REPORT
CITY OF IMPERIAL BEACH**

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: GARY BROWN, CITY MANAGER

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2007
ORIGINATING DEPT.: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GREG WADE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
JIM NAKAGAWA, AICP, CITY PLANNER

**SUBJECT: REPORTS: TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT
PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

This item provides information about possible comments the City of Imperial Beach may offer on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Tijuana River Flood Control Project (TJRFCP). The United States International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has the authority and responsibility to protect lands along the border from floods and resolve border sanitation and other border water quality problems. The USIBWC anticipates the need to make improvements to flood control facilities along the border over a 20-



year planning period. One of the flood control facilities that is the focus of this environmental document is the Tijuana River Flood Control Project, which was constructed in 1978. The document is attached to this report and can be found at the following website: <http://www.ibwc.state.gov/Files/TijuanaRiverDraftPEIS.pdf>

PROJECT EVALUATION/DISCUSSION:

The TJRFCP currently consists of a channel, floodways, and levees extending from the San Ysidro border crossing area into the United States for a distance of 2.3 miles toward the natural channel of the Tijuana River near Imperial Beach. The PEIS identifies, describes, and evaluates in conceptual terms three alternatives to be considered over the 20-year planning horizon for the TJRFCP.

No Action Alternative: This alternative is the continuation of current management and Operations and Management (O&M) practices, including actions planned or identified for short-term implementation.

Enhanced Operation and Maintenance (EOM) Alternative:

This alternative addresses anticipated or likely improvements to flood control facilities beyond those to be implemented under current O&M practices. Ongoing and future activities associated with the flood control mission of the Tijuana River Flood Control Project (FCP) are those associated with the maintenance and improvements to the levee system, and floodway maintenance activities, namely channel maintenance and sediment removal and disposal.

Multipurpose Project Management (MPM) Alternative:

The MPM Alternative incorporates measures under consideration under the EOM Alternative, adding measures for multiple use of the floodway and initiatives for environmental improvement. Those measures include additional floodway utilization for purposes other than optimization of flood control, as well as participation through cooperative agreements in local environmental initiatives to be implemented and managed by other agencies or organizations.

Of the three alternatives, the MPM Alternative appears to provide the greatest amount of effort the federal government can bring to bear on coordinating their flood control program with the environmental protection and habitat enhancement programs that have been in place and will be developed at the local, regional, and state level for the 20-year planning period.

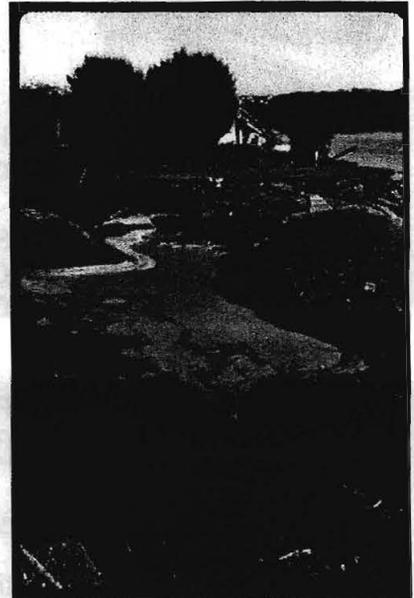
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

This project is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended and the NEPA implementing regulations of the USIBWC. A public hearing on the PEIS was conducted by the USIBWC on August 30, 2007 at the Dempsey Holder Safety Center. The deadline to provide comments on the PEIS to the USIBWC is September 24, 2007.

COASTAL JURISDICTION: The project is located in the California Coastal Zone, and any implementing actions may need a consistency determination by the California Coastal Commission.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The federal government is absorbing the cost of preparing the PEIS and the City is absorbing the cost (\$600) of reviewing the document and forwarding its recommendation. Cost impacts are not provided with this analysis.



DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution No. 2007-6542, that provides comments, recommends the selection of the Multipurpose Project Management (MPM) Alternative to the IBWC, and makes the necessary findings in support of its recommendations.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Department recommendation.



Gary Brown, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution 2007-6542
2. Tijuana River Flood Control PEIS

c: file

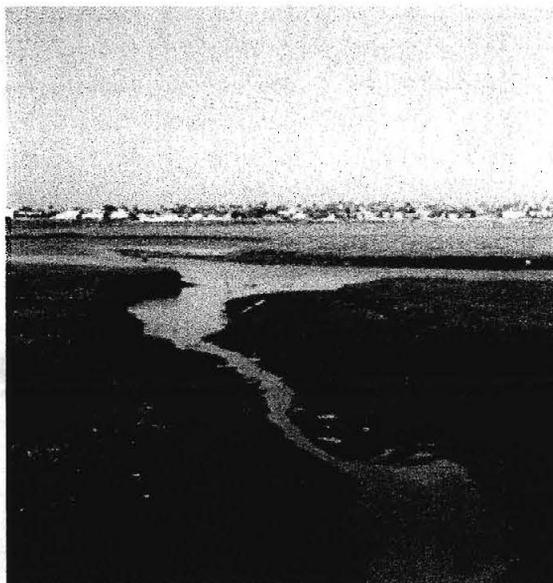
Daniel Borunda, Environmental Management Division, USIBWC, 4171 North Mesa Street, C-100, El Paso, Texas 79902

Esther Daigneault, Environmental Planner III, County of San Diego, Department of Public Works, 5469 Kearny Villa Road, Suite 305, San Diego, CA 92123 (esther.daigneault@sdcounty.ca.gov)

William Anderson, FAICP, Director, City of San Diego City Planning & Community Investment Planning Division, 202 C Street, MS 5A, San Diego, CA 92101 (andersonw@sandiego.gov)

Clay Phillips, Reserve Manager, Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932 (cphillip@parks.ca.gov)

California Coastal Commission, Diana Lilly, Coastal Program Analyst, 7575 Metropolitan Drive, Suite 103, San Diego, CA 92108-1735 (dlilly@coastal.ca.gov)



RESOLUTION NO. 2007-6542

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IMPERIAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA, RECOMMENDING THAT THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION SELECT THE MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVE FOR THE TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2007, the City Council of the City of Imperial Beach held a duly noticed public meeting wherein the City Council considered offering comments and provided a recommendation on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Tijuana River Flood Control Project (TJRFCP); and

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2007, the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) held a public hearing at the Dempsey Holder Safety Center in Imperial Beach where Imperial Beach residents offered comments on the PEIS and the City acknowledges that public comments are due by September 24, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the City of Imperial Beach has long maintained a history of supporting environmental programs in the San Diego region, particularly those comprehensive programs that seek to address water quality issues, provide for the public health, safety, and welfare, and restore and enhance the natural habitat of the Tijuana River Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands designated the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (Site #1452) as a Wetland of International Importance on February 2, 2005; and

WHEREAS, this project is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended and the NEPA implementing regulations of the USIBWC and that a PEIS is required to address potential environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that, of the alternative actions identified in the PEIS, the Multipurpose Project Management (MPM) Alternative provides for measures that go beyond flood control objectives and provides opportunities for working with regional agencies in the Tijuana River Valley to restore, protect, and enhance the habitat of this critically important environmental resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Multipurpose Project Management (MPM) Alternative identified in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Tijuana River Flood Control Project, is hereby **recommended** as the **preferred alternative** by the City Council of the City of Imperial Beach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Imperial Beach that the USIBWC provide the City of Imperial Beach and other affected regional agencies with project-level Environmental Impact Statements for the Tijuana River Flood Control Project as specific projects are developed during its 20-year planning period.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Imperial Beach at its regular meeting held on the 19th day of September, 2007, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

James C. Janney

JAMES C. JANNEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JACQUELINE M. HALD, CMC
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

James P. Lough

JAMES P. LOUGH
CITY ATTORNEY

I, City Clerk of the City of Imperial Beach, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of Resolution No. 2007-6542- A Resolution of the City of Imperial Beach recommending that the International Boundary and Water Commission select the Multipurpose Project Management Alternative for the Tijuana River Flood Control Project Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

CITY CLERK

DATE

*The City Of
Imperial
Beach*

(619) 628-1356
FAX: (619) 424-4093

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
825 IMPERIAL BEACH BOULEVARD • IMPERIAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA 91932



September 20, 2007

Mr. Daniel Borunda
Environmental Management Division
USIBWC
4171 North Mesa St., C-100
El Paso, TX 79902

**SUBJECT: TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT
PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Dear Mr. Borunda:

Thank you for including the City of Imperial Beach in the environmental review process for the proposed Tijuana River Flood Control Project. The following comments are based on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. Additional comments may be forthcoming pending final project review.

Please feel free to call or e-mail Jim Nakagawa, City Planner, at (619) 628-1355 or jnakagawa@cityofib.org with any questions regarding this letter or comments.

Sincerely,

Jerry Selby
Acting Community Development Director

Cc Gary Brown
Greg Wade
Jim Nakagawa
Jerry Selby

Enclosure

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-6542

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IMPERIAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA, RECOMMENDING THAT THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION SELECT THE MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVE FOR THE TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The City Council of the City of Imperial Beach hereby resolves as follows:

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2007, the City Council of the City of Imperial Beach held a duly noticed public meeting wherein the City Council considered offering comments and provided a recommendation on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Tijuana River Flood Control Project (TJRFCP); and

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2007, the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) held a public hearing at the Dempsey Holder Safety Center in Imperial Beach where Imperial Beach residents offered comments on the PEIS and the City acknowledges that public comments are due by September 24, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the City of Imperial Beach has long maintained a history of supporting environmental programs in the San Diego region, particularly those comprehensive programs that seek to address water quality issues, provide for the public health, safety, and welfare, and restore and enhance the natural habitat of the Tijuana River Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands designated the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (Site #1452) as a Wetland of International Importance on February 2, 2005; and

WHEREAS, this project is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended and the NEPA implementing regulations of the USIBWC and that a PEIS is required to address potential environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that, of the alternative actions identified in the PEIS, the Multipurpose Project Management (MPM) Alternative provides for measures that go beyond flood control objectives and provides opportunities for working with regional agencies in the Tijuana River Valley to restore, protect, and enhance the habitat of this critically important environmental resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Multipurpose Project Management (MPM) Alternative identified in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Tijuana River Flood Control Project, is hereby **recommended** as the **preferred alternative** by the City Council of the City of Imperial Beach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Imperial Beach that the USIBWC provide the City of Imperial Beach and other affected regional agencies with project-level Environmental Impact Statements for the Tijuana River Flood Control Project as specific projects are developed during its 20-year planning period.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Imperial Beach at its regular meeting held on the 19th day of September 2007, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	MCLEAN, BRAGG, WINTER, JANNEY
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	NONE
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	MCCOY

James C. Janney
JAMES C. JANNEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Hald
JACQUELINE M. HALD, CMC
CITY CLERK

I, City Clerk of the City of Imperial Beach, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2007-6542 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Imperial Beach, California, **RECOMMENDING THAT THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION SELECT THE MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVE FOR THE TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.**

Jacqueline M. Hald
CITY CLERK

9/20/07
DATE

From: "Bill Forbes" <bforbes@care2.com>
To: <danielborunda@ibwc.state.gov>
Date: 09/24/2007 7:48 PM
Subject: Re: Tijuana River Flood Control Project PEIS - public comment period

Dear Mr. Borunda,

My comment is to utilize natural flood control, such as wetland construction and restoration, as much as possible, and turn these areas into an international peace and nature park highlight their value for habitat, ecosystem services, and recreation. Train bilingual interpreters from Tijuana to lead tours of the sites.

----- Begin Original Message -----

From: Sally Spener <sallyspener@IBWC.STATE.GOV>
 Sent: Tue, 14 Aug 2007 16:40:21 -0600
 To: BECCNET@LISTSERV.ARIZONA.EDU
 Subject: Tijuana River Flood Control Project PEIS - public comment period

For immediate release

AGENCY SEEKS COMMENT ON TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT STUDY

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is seeking public comment on its Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PEIS) for future improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project operated by the USIBWC in southern San Diego County. The Draft PEIS analyzes potential environmental impacts of future flood control project improvements under consideration over the next 20 years. The study takes a broad programmatic look at the potential environmental implications of measures identified for future implementation. This broad evaluation will guide more detailed future studies of individual projects that may be implemented.

The Draft PEIS is available on the USIBWC web page at <http://www.ibwc.state.gov/Files/TijuanaRiverDraftPEIS.pdf>. Copies of the Draft PEIS are also available for inspection and review at the following locations:

Â§USIBWC San Diego Field Office, 2225 Dairy Mart Road, San Ysidro, CA 92173

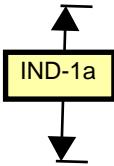
Â§San Diego Central Library, 820 E Street, San Diego, CA 92101

The USIBWC has scheduled a public hearing to accept comments on the Draft PEIS. The hearing is scheduled as follows:

August 30 - 6:00 p.m., City of Imperial Beach, Dempsey Holder Safety Center, 950 Ocean Lane, Imperial Beach, CA 91932.

Written comments are requested by September 24, 2007. To submit written comments or to request additional information, please contact Mr. Daniel Borunda, Environmental Protection Specialist, USIBWC, 4171 N. Mesa St., C-100, El Paso, TX 79902 or via e-mail at danielborunda@ibwc.state.gov.

For more information:



IND-1a

Sally Spener
915-832-4175
sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov
danielborunda@ibwc.state.gov

Daniel Borunda
915-832-4767

---- End Original Message ----

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<http://www.Care2.com> Green Living, Human Rights and more - 7 million members!

Comments by Teresa "Terry" Thomas re IBWC Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Future Improvements of Tijuana River Flood Control Project Operated by the International Boundary and Water Commission (U.S. Section) in San Diego County. Project is proposed and carried out with the cooperation of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE).

From Prof. Emeritus Terry Thomas, 1339 Second Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91911-4404
Phone: (619) 427-3181 FAX (619) 422-4686 Email address: terrytom@ix.netcom.com
with cc to tthomas@sweetwater.org

Teresa Thomas 8/30/07

For your information, my comments are solely those of my personal and professional viewpoint, they are not the statements of any committee, office, or organization or other entity of which I am a member. For identification purposes only, I am two term member of the IBWC- SD/TJ Citizens Forum Board, professor emeritus of microbiology and environmental biology, and human heredity of Southwestern College in Chula Vista, CA; director of the South Bay Irrigation District, director of Sweetwater Authority, and member of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Port of San Diego and City of Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan representing the CV General Plan Update Steering Committee.

To Mr. Daniel Borunda, Environmental Protection Specialist, Env. Management Division, USIBWC, 4171 North Mesa, C-100, El Paso, TX 79902

Dear Mr. Borunda and members of the US IBWC and other cognizant project administrators,

Permit me to go on record in support of the need for the fulfillment of the goals of this project proposal, i.e., the improvement of the capabilities and functionality of the Tijuana River Flood Control Project. The current status has caused significant negative impacts to the health of our community in the areas of environmental and public health, negative impacts on commerce and economic welfare, unacceptable humanitarian impacts, risks, and degradation of the social well-being and future outlook of the San Diego-Tijuana region sustainability and quality of life. The NO PROJECT alternative is totally unacceptable.

Of the two other alternatives considered, without a doubt, the BEST choice would be the Multipurpose Project Management (MPM) Alternative. My recommendation is based on the fact that this proposal encompasses the best consideration of SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY to have a long term and more sustainable impact on flood control, environmental balance and sustainability, commercial and economic considerations on a long range basis, a necessary consideration of the ecological principles, a decreased risk of public and environmental health impacts, and strongest societal and humanitarian considerations.

In addition to my recommendation, I would like to put forth a few comments, questions, and requests in support of the MPM Alternative and also for considerations of connection

and/or enhancement of the project or partnering with other current related project(s):

1. How does this project interface with the SD/TJ IBWC Early Flood Warning Monitoring Project. Will the Early Flood Warning capability and efficiency be enhanced?
 2. Although the document stated that quality of water will not be enhanced by this project, quality of water still needs to be assessed and communicated in a timely manner. Technology exists to make this assessment and data collection. Why is this not included in project?
 3. The enhancement of the habitats, San Diego County MSCP, City of San Diego Multi-Habitat Planning Area, the USFWS management areas and National Wildlife Reserves are now considered national and international models of estuarine research. This project could be a model for habitat restoration and international collaboration that will benefit the commerce and society on both sides of the border. A perfect incentive for grants, investments, and collaborations. Also, the restoration for use of the Border Field State Park and also the Tijuana River Park are also extremely important to the community, historically and in the future. This alternative will facilitate that important need and goal.
 4. Do you have GIS mapping and upgrading of infrastructure (water, sewage, etc.) in this area occurring in collaboration with the project. This is especially important with common systems used by several entities involving access roads, reclaimed water and sewage lines connected to the South Bay Metropolitan Sewage Treatment Plant connected to South Bay communities, such as east Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, San Ysidro, etc. How is the solid waste (tires, etc.) being dealt with in this project. (re reduction and disposal, ongoing programs, etc.).S
 5. How would this project enhance the work of Professor Oscar Romo from U.C. S. D. or the researchers from Tijuana Estuary and San Diego State University and the Universities and Colleges from Tijuana and Baja California, many of whom are working together in worthwhile international collaborations to improve habitats?
-

TIJUANA RIVER DRAFT PEIS
PARSONS' PUBLIC HEARING
IMPERIAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2007

REPORTED BY: MIROSALVA OLGUIN, CSR NO. 12959



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San Diego, CA
92101

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TIJUANA RIVER DRAFT PEIS
PARSONS' PUBLIC HEARING
IMPERIAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2007

TIJUANA RIVER DRAFT PEIS PUBLIC HEARING,
commencing at the hour of 6:08 p.m., Thursday, August 30,
2007, at 950 Ocean Lane, Dempsey Holder Safety Center,
Imperial Beach, California, before Mirosalva Olguin, a
Certified Shorthand Reporter, in and for the State of
California.

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APPEARANCES:

- Daniel Borunda
- Carlos Victoria
- Carlos Pena
- Gilbert Anaya
- Hayley Goodstein
- Dawi Dakhil
- Scott Melvin
- Rebecca Moreno
- Jill Noel



2
3
4 MR. BORUNDA: Good evening, ladies and
5 gentlemen. My name is Daniel Borunda and I
6 would like to welcome you here tonight to
7 tonight's public hearing on the Draft
8 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for
9 the improvements to the Tijuana River Flood
10 Control Project in southern San Diego County.

11 Let me state for the record, this is a
12 public hearing. The public hearing is being
13 convened at 6:10 p.m., on Thursday, August 30th
14 at the Dempsey Safe -- Safety Holder center,
15 located at 950 Ocean Lane, in Imperial Beach,
16 California. I also want to let you know that
17 the entire proceedings of this hearing are
18 being recorded by a -- are being recorded by a
19 court reporter, and that an official transcript
20 will be prepared and posted on USIBWC's web
21 site within a few weeks of this meeting.

22 Thank you for coming here tonight. I will
23 be your meeting moderator for the public
24 hearing. Before we begin, I'd like to mention
25 a few administrative remarks. The restrooms

1 are located out the door to the right. Please
2 feel free to get up anytime during the meeting.
3 Also, if you already haven't done so, before
4 the conclusion of the meeting, please sign one
5 of the sign in -- meeting sign in sheets at the
6 main entrance.

7 Also, so that everyone can hear what is
8 being said, please refrain from talking amongst
9 yourselves when someone else is speaking. And
10 I also ask that cell phones be turned off or
11 put on vibrate mode. And, finally, in the
12 unlikely event of an emergency, please exit
13 calmly through the doors on the right -- on
14 this side of the room (indicating).

15 Okay. The purpose of this meeting -- this
16 meeting is just another -- slides, please.

17 Okay. This meeting is another step in the NEPA
18 process. As you may recall, we conducted
19 public hearings -- public scoping meetings in
20 January 2005. And some of you may have been
21 present at those meetings to hear about this
22 project. Tonight, this is the public hearing,
23 a forum that provides an opportunity for
24 members of the community to provide comments on
25 the Draft Programmatic EIS.

1 The Draft Programmatic Environmental
2 Impact Statement was officially released for
3 public review following a notice of
4 availability that was published in the federal
5 register on August the 10th. Tonight we would
6 like to hear your comments on the draft. At
7 the back of the room -- the entrance, we have
8 available a packet of information which also
9 contains a copy of the presentation and written
10 comment sheets. We also have electronic copies
11 of the Draft Programmatic EIS.

12 The environmental review process is
13 mandated by -- slide, please. The
14 environmental review process is mandated by the
15 National Environmental Policy Act, commonly
16 referred to as NEPA. Your inputs and
17 comments -- your input and comments are
18 beneficial to our environmental review. The
19 USIBWC is interested in hearing your views,
20 opinions and recommendations concerning the
21 Draft Programmatic EIS.

22 I do want to clarify one thing up front.
23 This is a public hearing and the purpose of
24 this meeting is to provide you with the
25 opportunity to present your views, opinions and

1 recommendations concerning the Draft
2 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.
3 Your comments will be addressed at a later time
4 when the final Programmatic EIS becomes -- when
5 the final becomes available.

6 Tonight the USIBWC will not be responding
7 to any comments. Only to the extent that there
8 are factual and clarifying questions, we will
9 seek the response of those comments. We will
10 also have an open comment session where I will
11 be providing you the opportunity to -- to
12 provide those comments.

13 The next slide, please. The USIBWC is the
14 lead federal agency in this project. The IBWC
15 is an agency that will be leading this project
16 through the environmental review process. The
17 US Forum Engineers Los Angeles District is a
18 cooperating agency for this project. Several
19 members of the project team are here tonight
20 and I would like to introduce them.

21 Carlos Pena from the -- our chief for the
22 Environmental Management Division.

23 Gilbert Anaya is also with Environmental
24 Management Division. Hayley Goodstein is our
25 translator. We have Dawi Dakhil, who is our

1 project manager for the San Diego field office.
2 We also have Scott Melvin. He stepped out.
3 And we also have Rebecca Moreno in the back.
4 From the -- Parsons is the consulting firm that
5 is assisting the USIBWC with the preparation of
6 the Programmatic EIS. And from Parsons we have
7 Carlos Victoria. He is the project manager.
8 We have Jill Noel, the lead biologist from
9 Parsons.

10 After my brief remarks, I will be turning
11 over the podium to Carlos Victoria, who will
12 provide a presentation on the project. The
13 presentation will cover a flood control
14 overview and alternatives and an environmental
15 evaluation summary. Following the presentation
16 we will open up the hearing for public input.
17 Your comments are very important to us.

18 And, again, we're not here to respond to
19 questions on the subject matter. However, we
20 will respond to both oral and written comments
21 from you as part of the final Programmatic EIS.
22 I also wanted to reiterate that we do have a --
23 for people willing and ready to provide
24 input -- I would like for everybody to --
25 whoever wants to provide oral input, if you

1 could please sign the speaker request card and
2 provide verbal comments tonight.

3 I also want to mention that the letters
4 and comments should be mailed no later than
5 September, 24th, 2007. So that's the deadline
6 for the comment period. And I'll go ahead and
7 turn the presentation over to Carlos Victoria.
8 And we'll start the public hearing.

9 MR. VICTORIA: Okay. Good evening. I'm
10 Carlos Victoria with Parsons.

11 What I would like to do today is review
12 some important aspects of the flood control
13 project for you. The presentation is going to
14 cover three main areas. The first one is an
15 overview of the Tijuana River Flood Control
16 Project, that is currently maintained and
17 operated by the USIBWC. Second, we are going
18 to speak briefly on the process that was
19 followed to select alternatives for evaluation
20 in the EIS and give few examples of the
21 improvement measures under consideration.

22 And, finally, we are going to talk about
23 the evaluation of potential impacts of each
24 alternative that was conducted at a
25 programmatic level. And we'll come back to the

1 sources of programmatic level. Let's start
2 with a description of the project.

3 The commission operates four flood control
4 projects along the US Mexico border, and those
5 are the Tijuana River Projects and three
6 projects located along the Rio Grande in
7 Mexico. In this diagram on the screen, the red
8 boxes indicate the location of each of those
9 projects. The box size also indicates the
10 project extent relative to the other flood
11 control projects.

12 As you might see, the Tijuana River is the
13 smallest of the four. The Rio Grande projects
14 have been evaluated under separate Programmatic
15 EIS. And that's being developed internally,
16 this Programmatic EIS for the Tijuana River.
17 Let's now review some features of the Tijuana
18 River project. The project shown here in this
19 aerial photograph is located in the San Ysidro
20 municipality in southern San Diego County.

21 The project was built in 1978, around the
22 natural channel of the river, downstream from
23 the U.S. Mexico border. The floodway is
24 enclosed by a flood control levee that protects
25 mostly urban areas and Mexico and the U.S. The

1 two levees, the north and south levees, are
2 shown in this diagram by yellow lines. If you
3 see overall the features of the project that
4 you also have in your handout, it's in a little
5 more detail, the southern reach of the project
6 is a maintained undeveloped floodway. While to
7 the north, the downstream reach is leased for
8 agricultural and recreational use.

9 The following are some key features of the
10 project. The project extends approximately
11 2.3 miles along the river channel, from the
12 border all the way to Dairy Mart Road. This
13 project is actually a continuation of an
14 upstream international flood control project
15 that starts in Tijuana. The combined lengths
16 of the north and south levees is approximately
17 3.4 miles.

18 For the most part, the stream bed is an
19 unlined channel. But in the upstream section,
20 approximately half a mile, it is lined with
21 concrete in part and this is followed by a
22 section that is stone-lined to dissipate energy
23 during the flood events. In terms of
24 operations of the project, both the floodway
25 and the channel are maintained to ensure

1 efficiency of the flood control. Mowing of the
2 floodway is, which is the maintenance or
3 control vegetation, is conducted under
4 agreement with the Border Patrol.

5 We need to remind you that dry weather
6 flows in the Tijuana River actually intercepted
7 just upstream of the border and they are
8 treated at the South Bay International Waste
9 Water Treatment Plant, that is operated by the
10 USIBWC. Because this dry weather is routed to
11 the treatment facility, for the most part, the
12 streambed is dry throughout the year and
13 intermittent with a low flow. So any
14 intermittent flows are associated with storm
15 events. Another point to keep in mind, is that
16 the project is located upstream of federal,
17 state and county natural resources management
18 areas.

19 With this overview of the project, let's
20 move on to the development of alternatives. As
21 indicated in this diagram, the formulation of
22 improvement alternatives is a key step in the
23 preparation of the Programmatic Environmental
24 Impact Statement. These alternatives are the
25 basis for evaluation of impacts in this

1 document. Comments and recommendations that
2 were received during the scoping process, were
3 evaluated and incorporated into the
4 alternatives as applicable. This alternatives
5 report was completed in final form last
6 February.

7 Let's now consider the alternatives
8 development process. Three steps were followed
9 to develop these alternatives. First, measures
10 for potential improvements of the flood control
11 project were identified with input, as I
12 mentioned, from the scoping process. Second,
13 those measures were screened on the basis of
14 opportunities and constraints dictated by the
15 project features. Measures that were
16 identified as feasible for implementation were
17 then incorporated.

18 And the final step is to organize those
19 measurements -- those measures into action
20 alternatives for improved operation of the
21 project. A key criteria that needed to be
22 emphasized is that any measure unit to be
23 compatible with the core project mission of
24 flood control.

25 Three alternatives were evaluated in the

1 Programmatic EIS. The first alternative, as
2 required by the NEPA process, is the no action
3 alternative. That indicates that the
4 continuous management practices will be -- will
5 continue in the future. It doesn't really mean
6 that there is no action. Simply that there
7 would be no changes to current practices. Two
8 action alternatives were evaluated in the
9 Programmatic EIS relative to the no action
10 alternative.

11 First alternative is one that's focused on
12 the engineering and operational improvements,
13 called the "Enhanced Operation and Maintenance
14 Alternative." And the second action
15 alternative is one that deals with additional
16 measures for multi-purpose use of the project.
17 Now, let's review key elements of each
18 alternative, starting with the no action
19 alternative.

20 Current practices cover four main
21 management categories. First, the maintenance
22 of the levee system and roads. Second, is the
23 floodway management which is conducted
24 primarily by seasonal mowing in the
25 non-agricultural sections of floodway. And

1 that this vegetation control is needed to
2 prevent flow disruption through flood
3 maintenance. Third, channel maintenance is
4 conducted and that includes removal of sediment
5 and channel obstructions. And fourth, part of
6 the floodway maintenance is conducted in areas
7 that have been leased for sod farming and
8 recreation.

9 The first action alternative deals
10 primarily with the potential operational
11 features of the flood control project. The
12 Enhanced Operation and Management Alternative
13 incorporates those improvements to the levee
14 system and modified maintenance practices for
15 the floodway and stream channel. And typical
16 changes to the levee system are those that we
17 increase levee height to improve the flood
18 containment capacity or structural
19 improvements, for instance, to control -- to
20 prevent water leakage.

21 In terms of floodway maintenance, changes
22 that are possible could be made in the extent
23 or timing vegetation mowing or removal. In the
24 stream channel, changes could also be made in
25 the timing or extent of sediment and trash

1 removal. Measurements measured under the
2 second action alternative would extend beyond
3 these improvements in project functionality.

4 The Multipurpose Project Management
5 Alternative would incorporate measures that
6 fall into two general categories. First, those
7 that apply to jurisdictional floodway under
8 direct control, like the USIBWC. And those are
9 example uses for recreational areas or smaller
10 scale habitat use development. And the second
11 measures to be implemented outside the project
12 area, that would be all in support of regional
13 initiatives. And those implementations would
14 be conducted under cooperative agreements with
15 other agencies or organizations.

16 Examples of those initiatives are the
17 improvements in wildlife habitat, sediment in
18 canyons -- certain canyons as to the Tijuana
19 River or downstream habitat conservation. The
20 final step in the Programmatic EIS preparation
21 was the evaluation of impacts. The main point
22 of this document. A key consideration is the
23 evaluation of impacts is that it was conducted
24 at a Programmatic level. Now this is very
25 important to emphasize because this

1 Programmatic EIS approach differs from a
2 traditional environmental impact statement in
3 that potential, feasible measures are evaluated
4 rather than specific projects. This is a long
5 term view of what's feasible and couldn't
6 happen that the commission could take in the
7 future.

8 On the second -- based on the Programmatic
9 EIS, additional environmental documentation
10 would be subsequently prepared, as needed, for
11 future specific actions to be adopted. In the
12 evaluation, potential impacts were assessed for
13 each alternative and consideration was given to
14 impacts on multiple resource areas.

15 Major areas considered for impacts
16 included water resources, biological resources,
17 including wildlife habitat and vegetation,
18 historic and archaeological resources, changes
19 in land use, socioeconomic aspects, and the
20 environmental health issues such as air quality
21 and noise. A number of key issues were taken
22 into consideration in the Programmatic EIS
23 evaluation.

24 Some of those issues included, first, the
25 need to maintain flood containment capacity.

1 That was a primary consideration. The second
2 one is the extent of proposed measures must be
3 compatible, not only with the operation of the
4 flood control project by the USIBWC, but also
5 compatible with the increasing Border Patrol
6 operations. And the third point to emphasize
7 is that the small geographic scale of the
8 project and the flood control requirements,
9 restricts habitat development that can be --
10 that can placed in the jurisdictional floodway.

11 A number of potential effects that were
12 identified for each alternative. While those
13 impacts differ between the alternatives, there
14 are some general examples such as the potential
15 improvement measures within the floodway would
16 have limited impacts on the hydrological regime
17 or water quality. Improvements in biological
18 resources would be largely associated with the
19 extent of the participation on regional
20 initiatives. On the regional scale, impacts on
21 land use, economic issues and air quality would
22 be minor and/or temporary. Cultural resources
23 would be affected mainly as a result of
24 engineering works, such as the levee footprint
25 expansion. That's the case when you raise the

1 height of a levee you not only increase the
2 elevation, but also you have to expand the side
3 of the levee to increase the height. So
4 there's a new developed area that runs along
5 the levee corridor.

6 A number of plans or local initiatives
7 would have a potential for cumulative impacts
8 in this analysis. Examples of these potential
9 cumulative actions are, as we mentioned
10 briefly, the increased use of the floodway by
11 the Border Patrol and the propose or ongoing
12 placement of the new border fence. Another
13 example is ongoing or proposed initiatives for
14 storm water quality improvement in the upper
15 watershed in Mexico. Third, plans for
16 revegetation and other erosion control methods
17 in tributary canyons. And the fourth, specific
18 measures associated with regional habitat
19 management plans and protection of endangered
20 species. Many of them covered under the
21 Multi-Habitat Management Areas Program.

22 With this brief overview, what I would
23 like to do now is turn the podium back to
24 Mr. Daniel Borunda. And he will facilitate the
25 public comments session of this hearing. Thank

1 you.

2 MR. BORUNDA: Thank you, Carlos.

3 As part of this analysis, we're asking for
4 your input. And we're interested in hearing
5 from you and finding out if you have any
6 particular concerns, questions, comments on the
7 findings of the Draft Programmatic EIS. Should
8 you have any concerns or questions, this is the
9 time to express them. Remember that any
10 comments not submitted tonight must be
11 postmarked by September 24th, 2007.

12 And we'll go ahead now and start the
13 second part of tonight's meeting where you may
14 give us your comments. For those of you
15 wishing to speak tonight, if you can go ahead
16 and sign the speaker request form, I will go
17 ahead and start calling people up to the podium
18 order they were submitted. I also want to
19 mention that if the court reporter cannot hear
20 you well or understand something you say, she
21 may ask you -- she may interrupt you to ask for
22 clarification. Please don't be offended by
23 that.

24 Okay. The first person that I would like
25 to -- for them to approach the podium is

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Roger Benham.

MR. BENHAM: Why do I have to be first?
It's very difficult for me. I'm a life long
resident of Imperial Beach. And we were in
this room about six weeks ago. We had our
representative, Ms. Susan Davis, and we had a
Patricia McCoy make a comment. She's a long
time council person and has done a lot for this
city.

And she made the comment that our city
has, over the last four years, you know, voiced
concerns about the issues in the Tijuana River
Valley. Yet, it's just gotten worse. And I
want to also -- as far as the water quality,
trash issues and erosion issue, I recognize
this public hearing is about the flood control
aspect. But I just can't resist the
opportunity to voice our -- as a resident of
Imperial Beach our -- I guess it's frustration
that we have been affected by the -- this.
Both physically -- by the physical aspect of it
but also the imagine aspect of it.

And so I was hoping to give a two-page
article. I would provide this as an attachment
and leave them here. And I certainly recognize

1 the level of expertise here. That was a
2 fantastic overview. I look forward to learning
3 more about it. And we -- or I appreciate that.
4 I'm sure a lot of us here appreciate the work
5 that you've done. In closing, I'd just like to
6 remark -- I remember in the late 60's when the
7 cement channel was being built in Tijuana, the
8 flood control channel, where that was
9 initially, my understanding, there was to be a
10 permanent or concrete channel running all the
11 way out.

12 And maybe someone can correct me on that.
13 But that was our understanding, along with
14 proposals for a Marina, et cetera. At this
15 point it ended at the border. In this two-page
16 description of a concept -- I have handouts for
17 anyone who would like to see it now. It --
18 it's a bold concept that would include a bypass
19 channel to the estuary. And I know a lot of
20 the experts here which cringed at that.

21 But I think it has merit and it even fits
22 in with some of the bullet items you had in
23 achieving your objective of long term -- an
24 immediate and long term solution to sewage
25 problems, trash in the estuary and erosion

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problems. So thank you very much.

MR. BORUNDA: Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Jim Peugh.

MR. PEUGH: Hi, I'm Jim Peugh. I'm here for the San Diego Society. There is some comments on the document -- I appreciate that some of the things that we had mention in the scoping meeting were discussed on page 2, dash, 1. And one in particular is that we're interested in seeing something done about trash and sediment that comes across the border. But we also talked about water quality.

And, in general, we wanted the project to improve -- to update the nutrients and contaminants as well as trash and sediment. I'm really concerned with -- under "Opportunities and Constraints," there's a sentence that says, "Resulting analysis excluded from evaluation those actions that are in conflict with project objectives for a small scale measures with minimum" -- "minimum potential impacts or environmental benefit."

Really, that kind of says that you're going to consider things that agree with the project and you're going to disregard things

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that don't. And I don't think that's a particular good way to get a project that will serve the public in all the ways that it should. You may well satisfy somebody's version of a solution. But I'm not sure that's the right -- the right way to do it.

I'm concerned with the table you have called "Opportunities and Constraints." I haven't read the whole -- the whole document. But in looking at that table, it looks as though that's the framework for the logic of the rest of the document, and that bothers me. Under "Flood Control Objective" -- I haven't looked at the alternatives. But it doesn't seem like increasing flood plane volume is one of the things that's addressed. And I think that it's something that should be addressed in one of the alternatives.

I'm very concerned with the statement under "Dry weather base flow." It says, "None." That's hard to believe because it's just downstream of the Dairy Mart bridge. There are willows basically growing everywhere. There had to be some water coming through there. It's obviously subsurface water. But

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that's water in the Tijuana River.

And it's certainly -- later on you sort of acted like the river can't support any recurring vegetation in that area. But right across the bridge, it supports it really well. Obviously, that area will support it too. So I think that ignoring the subterranean water -- you know, you're basically starting this EIS -- this document under a false assumption.

Somehow it seems to be intriguing that vegetation and wildlife habitat is a constraint rather than an opportunity. It says, "Minimum diversification." And it's obviously because it's mowed all the time. "Vegetation growth is controlled by mowing and agricultural use." That seems to be an assumption that that has to be that way. And I think that's a real problem.

I think you ought to be looking for -- incorporating more vegetation in the area of this project so that the vegetation itself provide a water quality and benefit. And I think that you really need to be looking for more mechanical removal of sediment. You mentioned removal of sediment. But that should

1 be a big part of this project. The upper part
2 of the valley is really getting trashed because
3 the sediment is coming across the border.

4 Obviously, flood control is a huge part of
5 that. But the sediment is coming down the main
6 channel also, and trash is coming down the main
7 channel. It's really significant. So that
8 should be a major part of the document of the
9 project. I didn't see that. It says, "Ongoing
10 environmental initiatives for floodway is" --
11 and it says, "Few in the flood control project
12 vicinity, none in the floodway."

13 That's an astounding statement. There are
14 horrendous opportunities for including the
15 environmental value of that floodway. And sort
16 of defining those out of this document, to me,
17 seems really dysfunctional. And in the last
18 line, on the "Opportunities and Constraints,"
19 it say, "Potential for additional multipurpose
20 value." It says, "Minimal." I think that's
21 astounding. There's huge potential.

22 If you go back to page 2.1, on the list of
23 the things that were discussed at the scoping
24 meeting, all of those are huge potential
25 benefits to this area. And to think that there

1 are no multipurpose value. And it's odd too
2 because you've got a whole alternative. It
3 really is talking about multipurpose value.
4 And somehow that needs to be acknowledged.
5 But, to me, it's the logical basis of this
6 project.

7 And under the "Mission" paragraph, it
8 talks -- the flood control mission preclude
9 uncontrolled vegetation growth or development
10 of any wooded vegetation along your 2.3 mile
11 stream segment. And that really bothers me.
12 When they were talking about building the
13 bridge, I specifically asked IBWC, "Is the
14 bridge broad enough that wooded vegetation" --
15 you know, "some wooded vegetation can stay in
16 the flood planes in this area?"

17 I was told, "Yes. We will not have to
18 eliminate all the wooded vegetation." Now, all
19 of a sudden, that's the basis of the document.
20 Either IBWC was fibbing the first time, or they
21 somehow made an ideological decision. I would
22 like to see some real analysis in this
23 document. That's what the NEPA process was
24 for, for how much vegetation can be allowed
25 without a flood control problem.

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There's no discussion in -- you're making an assumption that vegetation can't be allowed. But then no one talks about whether maybe it's moving back into the areas used for agricultural now would increase the flood plane enough that that would change that substantially. It seems like that needs to be analyzed as part of one of these alternatives.

And you talk about the -- you talk about having three alternatives and no alternative -- no action alternative.

MR. BORUNDA: No action.

MR. PEUGH: And it seems like there's really four alternatives. There's a real no action alternative, which we do nothing. And the one which is now, which is existing. And you need to -- you need to assess the environmental impacts of what we do now, which are significant in terms of water quality, in terms of vegetation, in terms habitat, in terms of wildlife.

Those need to be analyzed, too. That is not a no action alternative. It's something very, very different. And we strongly support the multipurpose management alternative. But

1 we think that it needs to be expanded. You
2 need to look more into the possibility of
3 expanding the flood plane so that we can allow
4 more vegetation. But I'll try to get a letter
5 in discussing other things we would like to see
6 in the expansion of the alternative.

7 But we think that there are real
8 significant problems in your document and we
9 hope that you address all of them. Thank you.

10 MR. BORUNDA: Thank you.

11 The next speaker that sign up is
12 Ms. Terri Thomas.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much for this
14 opportunity to testify. I'm very -- for
15 purposes of identification only, I do not
16 represent the advocacies that I'm going to
17 share with you visually. Some of the
18 viewpoints may represent their stance and do
19 represent certain aspects. But I am speaking
20 this evening on a professional and personal
21 viewpoint.

22 I'm part of the citizen's forum board for
23 the International Boundary and Water Commission
24 and also director of South Bay Irrigation
25 District and also the joint powers agreement

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1 water utility called Sweetwater Authority. In
2 addition to that, a community activist. I'm a
3 member of the citizens advisory board for the
4 port of San Diego and the City of Chula Vista's
5 bay front master plan, along with Jim Peugh and
6 others estate holders in the community. And I
7 represent on that board the General Plan Update
8 Streering Committee for the City of Chula
9 Vista.

10 I would like to -- permitted to record the
11 need for the fulfillment of the goal of the
12 project proposal, that is, the improvement of
13 the capabilities and functionality of the
14 Tijuana River Flood Control Project. The
15 current status has caused significant, negative
16 impacts to the health of our community in the
17 areas of both environmental and public health.

18 Negative impacts are commerce and economic
19 welfare, unacceptable humanitarian impacts,
20 risks and degradation of the social well-being
21 and future outlook of the San Diego Tijuana
22 region, sustainability and quality of life.
23 The no project alternative is totally
24 unacceptable. Of the two other alternatives
25 considered, without a doubt, the best choice

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would be the multipurpose project management alternative.

My recommendation is based on the fact that this proposal encompasses the best consideration of science and technology to have a long term and more sustainable impact on flood control environmental bounds and sustainability commercial and economic consideration on a long range basis.

Unnecessary consideration of the ecological principles are the decreased risks of public and environmental health impacts and the strongest recital and humanitarian consideration.

In addition to my recommendation, I would like to put forth a few comments, questions and requests in support of the MPM alternative. And also for consideration of the and/or enhancement of the project or partnering with other current related projects.

Number one, how does this project interfere -- excuse me interface with the current San Diego Tijuana International Boundary and Water Control Program for early flood warning monitoring project. That's

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1 already been complete, as far as agreements
2 goes, between those with Mexico, USIBWC,
3 according to USIBWC. In other words, will the
4 early flood warning capability and efficiency
5 be enhanced by this project? Secondly,
6 although the document stated that the quality
7 of water will not be enhanced by this project,
8 the quality of water still needs to be assessed
9 and communicated effectively, that is, in a
10 timely manner.

11 Technology exists to make this assessment
12 and make the corrections. Why is this not
13 included in the project. The enhancement of
14 the habitat, which is the San Diego County
15 Conservation Program, the City of San Diego
16 Multi-habitat Planning Area, the United States
17 Fish and Waterlife Service Programs, management
18 areas and national wildlife reserves, et
19 cetera, are now considered both national -- many
20 of them are considered national and
21 international models of estuarine research and
22 as well as the basic sustainable habitat
23 community collaborations with the public and
24 private partnerships and government.

25 This project would be a model -- could be

1 a model for habitat restoration and
2 international collaboration that will benefit
3 both comments in society and both sides of the
4 border, a perfect incentive for grants,
5 investments and collaboration. Also, the
6 restoration for use of the Border State Park
7 and also the Tijuana River Valley Park are also
8 extremely important to the community
9 historically, socially and in the future.

10 The alternative will facilitate -- this
11 alternative will facilitate that important need
12 and goal. I do have a report that I would like
13 to add. I do have our GF -- GIF mapping and
14 upgrading of the infrastructure within the
15 project, that means the infrastructure both
16 particle water, sewage, et cetera, in this area
17 occurring in collaboration with this project.
18 This is especially important with common
19 systems used by several entities involving
20 access roads reclaimed water and sewage lines
21 connected to the South Bay Metropolitan Sewage
22 Treatment Plant, not the international one, the
23 other metropolitan one. And, actually, to all
24 certain South Bay communities such as east
25 Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, San Ysidro, et

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cetera.

How is solid waste being dealt with in this project concerning source reduction and disposal. Continuing to just remove them from collection areas is not enough. The actual root cause of the source of it has to be addressed with ongoing programs that could be a part of a multipurpose program.

And lastly, how would the project enhance the work of people like Professor Oscar Romo from University of California San Diego or the researchers from Tijuana Estuary and the San Diego State University and the universities and colleges from Tijuana and Baja California. And, in fact, across the United States. If you consider people like Jay Fettler, another estuarine international overseas, many of whom are working together in worthwhile international collaboration to improve habitats.

So this program will create more of an invitation for those collaborations and it's very worthwhile. Thank you.

MR. BORUNDA: Thank you, Ms. Thomas.

Also, has anybody else signed up for the

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speaker request cards?

Well, if nobody else has signed up, I just want to remind everybody that the comment period ends September 24th. Please submit written comments before that time. And I guess this concludes our public hearing for tonight.

(The hearing concluded at 6:53 p.m.)

* * * *

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 I, Mirosalva Olguin, Certified Shorthand
4 Reporter for the State of California, do hereby certify:

5
6 That the foregoing hearing was taken before me at
7 the time and place herein set forth; that the proceedings
8 were reported stenographically by me and were transcribed
9 through computerized transcription under my direction; that
10 the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the
11 proceedings taken at that time.

12
13 In witness whereof I have subscribed my name this
14 5th day of October, 2007.

15
16 M. Olguin

MIROSALVA OLGUIN

17 Certified Shorthand Reporter No. 12959

for the State of California

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