



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
January 14, 2010

### **JANUARY 28 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PROJECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION AND THE SOUTHWEST WETLANDS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on Thursday, January 28, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932. The meeting will focus on USIBWC projects and the activities of the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (SWIA). The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related issues in San Diego County.

USIBWC Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener will discuss the Commission process for project development and funding. Before an international project is undertaken, Commission engineers develop technical documents and make recommendations to the Commissioners, who may approve the recommendations or adopt them as a Minute, an agreement binding on both countries. Subsequent implementation is generally subject to the availability of appropriations in both countries. The USIBWC would then prepare and submit a budget request. In some cases, federal legislation authorizing the project may also be required. Development of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in San Diego was undertaken in accordance with this process.

USIBWC Area Operations Manager Steve Smullen will give an update on construction of the upgrade to the SBIWTP. The plant, which is located at the international border in San Diego County, treats wastewater from Tijuana. Construction is nearly 50% complete. When done in early 2011, the

upgrade will provide a higher level of treatment to the wastewater before it is discharged 3.5 miles offshore in the Pacific Ocean.

In other business, Mike McCoy of the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (SWIA) will discuss the organization's mission and activities. SWIA is dedicated to education and acquisition, preservation, and restoration of wetlands. Established in 1979, SWIA has worked on such projects as Ecoparque, a low-tech demonstration sewage treatment plant in the U.S. and its second stage in Tijuana, Mexico and Model Marsh, a 20-acre salt marsh restoration in the Tijuana Estuary. The presentation will also include a discussion of current restoration initiatives and future plans.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 619-662-7600 or e-mail [sallyspener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.gov).

For more information:

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**USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Thursday, January 28, 2010**  
**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room**  
**301 Caspian Way**  
**Imperial Beach, CA 91932**

**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions – Oscar Romo, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, Who We Are, What We Do: Past, Present & Future – Mike McCoy, Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association
- International Boundary and Water Commission, Funding and Project Development – Sally Spener, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC
- Status Update on Construction of the Secondary South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant – Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Suggested Future Agenda Items
- Board Discussion

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time.

For information, call 619-662-7600 or e-mail [sallyspener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.gov).