



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

For immediate release  
February 6, 2012

### **FEBRUARY 16 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS WATER QUALITY, TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL, AND WATERSHED PLANNING**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on Thursday, February 16, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932. The meeting will focus on water quality and flood control issues. The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related activities.

Dr. Tim Stebbins, Senior Marine Biologist for the City of San Diego and Director of the City's Ocean Monitoring Program, will give a presentation on the environmental monitoring work conducted by the City to monitor the effects of treated wastewater discharged to the Pacific Ocean through the South Bay Ocean Outfall. The emphasis of the presentation will be on the work funded jointly by the City and the USIBWC to fulfill discharge permit requirements for the USIBWC's South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant and the City's South Bay Water Reclamation Plant. Dr. Stebbins will provide an overview of the core monitoring activities, which include monitoring of numerous fixed and randomly-selected sites to assess ocean water quality conditions, seafloor sediment quality, the health and status of marine invertebrate and fish communities living on or near the seafloor, and the accumulation of contaminants in marine fishes. The City of San Diego's monitoring program is one of the largest of its kind in the world with City scientists using two monitoring vessels, specialized oceanographic sampling equipment, a remote operated vehicle, and dive surveys to collect the necessary information.

In other business, Guillermo Martinez, a civil engineer with the USIBWC, will discuss ongoing efforts to meet certification requirements established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the USIBWC's Tijuana River Flood Control Project, which extends along the river for approximately two miles from the international boundary to Dairy Mart Road. Since 2009, the USIBWC has employed an engineering consulting firm to assist in conducting geotechnical and hydraulic studies of both the north and south Tijuana River levees within the USIBWC right-of-way for the purpose of certifying the levees in accordance with FEMA guidelines. Property owners protected by FEMA-accredited levees enjoy favorable rates on flood insurance and are exempt from a requirement to purchase flood insurance. The USIBWC has been coordinating the project with FEMA Region 9, the City of San Diego, and other private engineering consulting firms.

Finally, USIBWC Civil Engineer Planner Gabriel Duran will discuss the work of the USIBWC's Master Planning Division on an international watershed initiative. The USIBWC wishes to discuss the possibility of addressing localized concerns along the common border between the US and Mexico in a forum based on watersheds. This approach is not novel and is being used successfully on the northern border of the United States with Canada. This initiative seeks to promote an integrated ecosystem approach to transboundary issues through enhanced local participation and strengthened local capacity.

The initiative was conceived to facilitate the development of watershed-specific responses to emerging challenges. The underlying premise is that local people, given appropriate assistance, are those best positioned to resolve many local transboundary problems. This initiative is not intended to circumvent the current process of the International Boundary and Water Commission for resolving differences that arise in the application of the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico, but rather to enhance the process.

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

For more information:

Sally Spener  
915-832-4175  
[sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov)

**USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012**  
**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room**  
**301 Caspian Way**  
**Imperial Beach, CA 91932**

**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions – Steve Smullen, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Present Ocean Monitoring Activities Surrounding the South Bay Ocean Outfall – Tim Stebbins, Senior Marine Biologist and Director of City of San Diego Ocean Monitoring Program, City of San Diego
- Update on the USIBWC's Tijuana River Levee Certification Efforts – Guillermo Martinez, P.E., CFM, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- Master Planning International Watershed Initiative - Gabriel Duran, P.E., Civil Engineer Planner, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

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 [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov).