



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

For immediate release  
May 16, 2016

### **TIJUANA RIVER AND ESTUARY ISSUES ON AGENDA FOR JUNE 2 PUBLIC MEETING IN IMPERIAL BEACH, CA**

Conditions at the Tijuana River Estuary associated with El Niño events and an update on Minute 320 activities in the Tijuana River Watershed will be discussed at the next meeting of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) Citizens Forum. The public meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 2 at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach CA.

Jeff Crooks, Research Coordinator for the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, will give a presentation entitled “El Niño Associated Mouth Closure of the Tijuana River Estuary.” Coastal lagoons such as the Tijuana River Estuary are connected to the sea by a highly dynamic river mouth. Although the Tijuana Estuary rarely experiences full mouth closure, the system has closed during two large El Niño events within the last 35 years. The full effects of the most recent series of closures, which began in late March 2016, are still being investigated, but initial observations suggest that dramatic impacts can occur very quickly. In more general terms, conditions associated with El Niño events, including elevated sea levels and large wave events, offer a snapshot of potential challenges associated with climate change.

In other business, Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager for the USIBWC San Diego Office, will give an update on activities being undertaken in accordance with Minute 320, “General Framework for Binational Cooperation on Transboundary Issues in the Tijuana River Basin,” a 2015 agreement of the International Boundary and Water Commission. The first

recommendations under Minute 320 have been provided to the agency's Commissioners for approval, and implementation should begin soon. His presentation will also cover future activities of the Binational Work Groups established under Minute 320.

In addition, Mr. Smullen will provide a status report on South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) Projects. The USIBWC's new LEED-certified administration building is nearing completion this month, and the agency has recently begun construction of a new flow equalization basin and additional secondary clarifiers at the SBIWTP.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information may contact the USIBWC San Diego Field Office at 619-662-7600 or [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov).

News media may contact:

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**USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Thursday, June 2, 2016**  
**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room**  
**301 Caspian Way**  
**Imperial Beach, CA 91932**

**AGENDA**

- Welcome and Introductions – Edward Spriggs, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- El Niño Associated Mouth Closure of the Tijuana River Estuary – Jeff Crooks, Research Coordinator for the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Update on South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) Projects and Tijuana River Watershed Activities under Minute 320 – Steve Smullen, USIBWC Area Operations Manager, San Diego Office
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items (next meeting is Thursday, September 1)

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information, call 619-662-7600.