



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
July 20, 2012

BORDER WATER QUALITY AND RIVER RESCUES ON AGENDA FOR AUGUST 9 PUBLIC MEETING

Commissioner Edward Drusina of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will attend the next public meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on Thursday, August 9, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932. 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.

Commissioner Drusina will discuss efforts to improve water quality at the San Diego, CA-Tijuana, BC border. The USIBWC is currently undertaking actions to ensure reliable effluent quality for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Diego, which treats Mexican wastewater and discharges the effluent offshore into U.S. waters. The USIBWC is also working with the Mexican Section of the Commission and officials in both countries to address sediment, trash, and wastewater affecting the Tijuana River Valley.

In other business, Troy Keach, Lifeguard Sergeant with the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, will discuss the history of the San Diego Lifeguard River Rescue Team, including rescues made in the Tijuana River Valley. He will also talk about the challenges the rescue team faces due to the remoteness, lack of basic information, and water quality in this area.

Also on the agenda, Ewan Moffat, Environmental Health Specialist with the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health, will provide a detailed explanation of the

Recreational Water Program. The presentation will provide information on how local agencies monitor water quality at area beaches, how decisions are made to close beaches or post advisories, and the methods used to evaluate South County with regards to posting and lifting Tijuana River closures.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 619-662-7600 or e-mail sandra.camacho@ibwc.gov.

For media inquiries:

Sally Spener
915-832-4175
sally.spener@ibwc.gov

or

Steve Smullen
619-662-7600
steve.smullen@ibwc.gov

USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, August 9, 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
- Efforts to Improve Water Quality at San Diego-Tijuana --Edward Drusina, Commissioner, USIBWC
- History of the San Diego Lifeguard River Rescue Team -- Troy Keach, Lifeguard Sergeant, City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
- When Is it Safe to Swim in the Ocean? -- Ewan Moffat, Environmental Health Specialist, San Diego County Department of Environmental Health
- 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 sandra.camacho@ibwc.gov.