

**USIBWC Citizens Forum
Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room
Imperial Beach, CA
July 16, 2009
*Tentative Meeting Notes**

See attached agenda.

Board members in attendance:

Jack Bransford
Jo Brooks
Scott Huth
Ben McCue
Oscar Alberto Pombo
Oscar Romo
Carlos Sanchez
Richard Tynan
Michael Williams

Board members absent:

Carolyn Powers

Oscar Romo, Citizens Forum Co-Chair gave a brief introduction to the IBWC as a binational agency and the purpose of the Citizens Forum.

Update on the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Project

Clay Phillips, Manager of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR), presented an overview of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and its recent efforts. He explained what TRNERR was and their interface with NOAA. He stated that there were four key focus areas in the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (TRVRT); most of the work to date has been focused in the western edge which is the estuary proper, and in the sub-drainages from Mexico that affect the estuary. Oscar Romo has created a great working relationship between the TRNERR and Mexican agencies. With the advent of the TRVRT, focus has now been extended to eastern areas, namely to property administered by the Federal Government, County and City of San Diego. There are four teams in the TRVRT, their focus is 1) Border 2) Restoration, 3) Binational and 4) Clean Up. He explained that the Border Fence had postponed, but not waived, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, and that he was hopeful that Congressional funding would be allocated to environmental enhancements as a means of mitigation for the fence. He also mentioned the success of the ongoing meetings and coordination between the members of the TRNERR Management Authority. He said the advent of a much larger group such as TRVRT with its significant media and legislative exposure will most certainly bring a significant benefit to the ecologic health of the valley and estuary.

Richard Tynan asked about dredging of the river by the City and the continued need for environmental statements. This required a City/County response and no one from the City/County was present.

Jack Bransford asked about memorializing meetings and reviewing data/reports. Clay Phillips responded by mentioning the website for the TRVRT.

One member of the public asked where Clay Phillips saw the project being in 20-30 years and if he thought we would be any closer. Mr. Phillips was positive and he stated he hoped that the Valley would be well on its way to complete recovery by that time.

Update on Construction of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Steve Smullen, USIBWC Area Operations Manager, gave a presentation on the status of the SBIWTP Secondary Construction. Work is about 15% complete, with significant concrete pours beginning on May 25. The project is expected to be completed in March 2011. There were some basic questions such as what is the capacity of the plant (25 mgd), the location (shown on aerial map), would there be provision to reduce the use of chemicals when the biological process comes on line. (no)

Tijuana's Wastewater Treatment and Water Recycling Programs

Hernando Duran, Director of the State Public Services Commission of Tijuana (CESPT), gave an overview of the water and wastewater system in Tijuana and where the utility was going in the future. There has been expansion of the potable water system to the Valle de las Palmas, where city expansion is planned to occur. Eventually the utility wants to be positioned to implement some form of indirect reuse of wastewater. They are already actively working on installing reclaimed water facilities (purple pipe) in certain areas of the city. Monte los Olivos is online (now called the Arturo Herrera Wastewater Plant) and the La Morita Treatment Plant will be online within several months. Director Duran pointed out that 40-60% of flow in the Tijuana River is sewage and that when the two treatment plants (Herrera and La Morita) are online in several months, the sewage portion should be reduced to an insignificant amount. Mexico has plans to send that effluent (via purple pipe) to green areas. Whatever is not used will be sent to the rehabilitated Pump Station No. 1, where it will be pumped to a new outfall to be located on the coast. The outfall will also service the new Tecolote Treatment Plant. Scott Huth asked about pretreatment. Mexican authorities pointed out that there is not a significant load as Tijuana maquiladoras are mostly assembly type industries and do not have significant industrial pollution. Most industries have onsite treatment, and meet discharge norms. There are not significant exceedances of pollutants through the South Bay Ocean Outfall.

Solid Waste Management in Tijuana

Marcos Sarabia, Secretary of Urban Development of Tijuana, spoke about solid waste collection in Tijuana. Recent developments have improved solid waste management in the City of Tijuana; there is now a more comprehensive approach. Recently, the City acquired 32 new hauling units and 23 transfer sites. One of the problems is that the road

to the sanitary landfill is not paved in the eastern part of Tijuana, and soon this will be paved. Allocation of routes has been redesigned. The city now has service to 295,000 residences. Currently the City is piloting a waste segregation facility, and has constructed a new transfer station; others are being planned. In the future they will be looking at new technologies such as gasification of landfills for generation of electrical energy, and solid waste transport using trains. A question was asked regarding recycling; Mr. Sarabia replied that the government has not embraced this idea yet so there are no procedures or authorities in place.

Oscar Romo mentioned that CESPT has offered to provide a tour of infrastructure to the Citizens Forum board members; he will be working on the logistics and the dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

*Meeting notes are tentative and summarize in draft the contents and discussion of Citizens' Forum Meetings. While these notes are intended to provide a general overview of Citizens' Forum Meetings, they may not necessarily be accurate or complete, and may not be representative of USIBWC policy or positions.

USIBWC CITIZENS' FORUM
Thursday, July 16, 2009
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Oscar Romo, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Tijuana's Wastewater Treatment and Water Recycling Programs – Hernando Duran, Director, State Public Services Commission of Tijuana (CESPT)
- Solid Waste Management in Tijuana – Marcos Sarabia, Secretary of Urban Development of Tijuana
- Update on the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Project – Clayton Phillips, Reserve Manager, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Update on Construction of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade – USIBWC Staff
- 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 more information, call 619-662-7600 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.gov