



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
February 15, 2018

### **USIBWC SELECTS 11 CITIZENS FORUM BOARD MEMBERS TO SERVE 2-YEAR TERM**

Commissioner Edward Drusina of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has appointed 11 citizens to serve on the USIBWC Citizens Forum Board. 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 in San Diego County, California. The first public meeting with the new board will take place on **Thursday, March 1, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA.**

The new board members are:

- **Paloma Aguirre:** Coastal and Marine Director, Wildcoast
- **Paul Backus:** Owner, Green Gardens Nursery
- **Thomas Beltran:** Chairman, Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group
- **Kent Bricker:** Owner, Southland Water Technologies, LLC
- **Jon Jacobson:** San Diego Resident
- **Baron Partlow:** Member, Stop the Poop
- **Mary Powell:** Member, Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association
- **Douglas Smith:** Director, Corporate Environment, Safety and Health, Sony Electronics, Inc.
- **Peter Smith:** City of Imperial Beach Design Review Board, Vice Chair
- **Gabriela Torres:** Policy Coordinator, Surfrider
- **Kenia Zamarripa:** Director of International Business Affairs, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

USIBWC Area Operations Manager Carlos Peña will serve as the USIBWC representative on the board. Board members serve as volunteers for a two-year term.

At the March 1 meeting, Scott Shin, Project Executive, Design and Construction Division, General Services Administration, will discuss the progress of the ongoing construction work at the San Ysidro Port of Entry to accommodate the growth of vehicle and pedestrian traffic and meet the changing needs of Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Once completed, the new port will boast 62 northbound vehicle primary inspection booths over 34 lanes and 10 new southbound vehicle lanes to the new El Chaparral, Mexico facility. Moreover, the new northbound pedestrian building will have 22 new pedestrian processing lanes, in addition to 12 northbound pedestrian lanes in the West Pedestrian building completed in 2016.

The Citizens Forum will also hear from USIBWC Area Operations Manager Carlos Peña, who will give a status report on a Commission agreement known as Minute No. 320, “General Framework for Binational Cooperation on Transboundary Issues in the Tijuana River Basin,” which enables priority issues of sediment, trash, and water quality in the river basin to be addressed cooperatively. The agreement benefits residents of both countries through sustainable management of transboundary resources. By removing trash and taking actions aimed at eliminating sediment transport into the Tijuana River channel, the goal is to achieve this sustainability. Mr. Peña will also discuss the full range of Commission projects in the San Diego-Tijuana region, including the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Tijuana River Flood Control Project.

The USIBWC will welcome the 11 newly-appointed Citizens Forum Board members who will be provided an orientation regarding the board’s role over the next two-year term by USIBWC Public Affairs Officer Lori Kuczanski.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact the USIBWC’s office at 619-662-7600 or [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov).

News media may contact:

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**USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Thursday, March 1, 2018**  
**5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room**  
**301 Caspian Way**  
**Imperial Beach, CA 91932**

**Agenda**

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Carlos Peña, USIBWC Area Operations Manager, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **San Ysidro Land Port of Entry Expansion and Reconfiguration Project Update**—Scott Shin, Project Executive, Design and Construction Division, General Services Administration
- **Update on Minute 320 Actions to Address Tijuana River Water Quality** — Carlos Peña, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- **Public Comment**
- **Break**
- **2018-2020 New Board Member Orientation**—Lori Kuczanski, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC
- **Overview of Commission Activities in San Diego**—Carlos Peña, USIBWC Area Operations Manager
- **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.*

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