



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
February 25, 2015

BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AND TIJUANA RIVER WATER QUALITY ON AGENDA FOR MARCH 12 PUBLIC MEETING IN IMPERIAL BEACH, CA

Projects to address environmental conditions along the U.S.-Mexico border and an initiative to improve Tijuana River water quality will be the focus of an upcoming public meeting in Imperial Beach, California. The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA. 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.

Denise Moreno Ducheny, a member of the Board of Directors of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC)/North American Development Bank (NADB), will provide an update on the activities of those two institutions, which were established under the North American Free Trade Agreement of 1994 to improve environmental conditions on the U.S.-Mexico border. She will give an overview of the categories of projects certified and completed over the past 20 years, including local projects, and will describe the various programs offered by the BECC and NADB that are available to parties who wish to submit project applications for certification. Ms. Ducheny will also discuss the current integration of BECC and NADB, which was approved by the joint BECC/NADB Board of Directors in December of 2014. Historically, the two organizations were partners but maintained separate structures. In addition to serving on the BECC/NADB Board, Ms. Ducheny is a Senior Policy Advisor with the University of California at San Diego Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies.

In other business, Chris Helmer, Environmental Programs Manager for the City of Imperial Beach Public Works Department, will present updated information on the Tijuana River Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP), currently under development. The City of Imperial Beach, City of San Diego, and County of San Diego are the responsible agencies in the Tijuana River watershed tasked with developing and implementing a WQIP to manage the discharge of storm water urban runoff. The Tijuana River WQIP will be submitted to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board in June of 2015 and will be the guiding document that informs the implementation of the Storm Water Management Programs for each agency. The presentation will review the components of the WQIP and allow an opportunity to discuss how it impacts new development projects, areas of existing development, and water quality monitoring for the Tijuana River watershed.

A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, March 12, 2015
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Paloma Aguirre, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Update on Activities of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and North American Development Bank (NADB) – Denise Moreno Ducheny, Senior Policy Advisor, University of California at San Diego Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, and Member of the BECC/NADB Board of Directors
- Tijuana River Water Quality Improvement Plan – Chris Helmer, Environmental Programs Manager, City of Imperial Beach, Public Works Department
- 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.

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