



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE FOR THE TIJUANA RIVER WATERSHED AND INVESTIGATIVE REPORT ON THE FEBRUARY SPILL IN THE TIJUANA RIVER ON AGENDA FOR JUNE 1 PUBLIC MEETING IN IMPERIAL BEACH, CA

Environmental issues affecting the Tijuana River watershed and the investigation report on the February 2017 sewage spill in the Tijuana River will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Citizens Forum of the U. S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) on Thursday, June 1, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA.

Yamilett K. Carrillo Guerrero, Ph.D., Conservation Scientist, The International Community Foundation, will present on creating opportunities for a sustainable water future in the Tijuana-San Diego region. Based on the key ingredients that made Minute 319, an agreement of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, a success for communities that share the Colorado River watershed, Dr. Carrillo will explore whether those ingredients can be fostered in other binational watersheds. The Tijuana River watershed is a binational ecosystem with cross-border connections that are well established by the communities. Her presentation will touch on what else can be done toward building a future in which these communities share a healthy, thriving environment.

In other business, Steve Smullen, USIBWC Area Operations Manager, will summarize the investigation report on a large wastewater spill in Tijuana in February that affected the Tijuana River, Tijuana River Estuary, and coastal waters at Imperial Beach, California. U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina and Mexican Commissioner Roberto Salmon of the International Boundary and Water

Commission directed the Commission's Water Quality Work Group to investigate the spill and prepare a report within 30 days. The resulting report discusses the events surrounding the spill and the reasons for the spill. The work group developed a set of recommendations— some of which have already been implemented. This includes the acquisition of equipment to prevent or manage spills, establishment of a communication and notification protocol, and enhancement of data collection and information exchange to assist in speedy detection and response to transboundary sewage spills.

A formal agreement on notification protocols will be vetted through the Minute 320 Water Quality Work Group. Several of the work group members will be at the meeting to provide their perspectives.

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.

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

News media may contact:

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USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, June 1, 2017
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
- Creating Opportunities for a Sustainable Water Future in the Tijuana and San Diego Region – Yamilett K. Carrillo Guerrero, Ph.D., Conservation Scientist, The International Community Foundation
- The Investigative Report on the February 2017 Spill in the Tijuana River— Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, San Diego Field Office
- 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 lori.kuczmanski@ibwc.gov