



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
June 17, 2021

NEW SAN DIEGO AREA OPERATIONS MANAGER TO GIVE UPDATE ON BORDER SANITATION ISSUES AND EPA TO DISCUSS PROJECTS TO ADDRESS WATER POLLUTION FROM TIJUANA AT JULY 1 MEETING VIA WEBINAR

The United States Section of the [International Boundary and Water Commission](#) (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on **July 1, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. PDT via webinar**. The meeting will cover an introduction to Morgan Rogers, San Diego Field Office Area Operations Manager, USIBWC activities in San Diego, and an update on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) projects in the San Diego region.

Morgan Rogers recently joined the USIBWC as the San Diego Field Office Area Operations Manager overseeing the operation of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP), which treats Mexican wastewater to U.S. standards. Other duties include operation and maintenance of the Tijuana River Flood Control Project, international boundary demarcation, SBIWTP permit reporting, operation of the canyon collectors that capture stormwater and wastewater from Mexico, and coordination with the Mexican Section of the Commission on the region's boundary and water issues. Information on the San Diego Field Office can be found [here](#). Rogers can be reached via email at: morgan.rogers@ibwc.gov

Rogers will provide an update on the purchase and use of equipment by the USIBWC, such as pumps and flow meters, intended to mitigate transboundary flows from Mexico to the

extent practicable, consistent with an agreement in the ongoing litigation filed by the State of California and other parties over transboundary wastewater issues. As part of this agreement, the USBWC will update the public of ongoing operational activities, including use of this new equipment, at its Citizens Forum meetings.

Doug Liden, Environmental Engineer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 San Diego Border Office, will give an update on the evaluation of possible projects funded by the USMCA to address waterborne pollution from Tijuana. In the Tijuana River Valley and neighboring coastal areas, contaminated flows from Mexico enter the U.S. and create significant negative impacts to water quality, public health, and the environment. In 2020, the U.S. government, through the EPA, committed \$300 million in the USMCA Trade Agreement to identify infrastructure solutions to mitigate this decades-old problem. Mr. Liden will provide an update on the evaluation of infrastructure projects to support a comprehensive solution to the transboundary wastewater pollution issues in the San Diego-Tijuana region, in accordance with the USMCA treaty legislation. More information on USMCA can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/usmca-tijuana-river-watershed>

The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USBWC and the community about Commission projects and related activities.

To join our Teams Meeting, [click here](#). Click on “Join.” If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the Join link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning.

Or join by phone: Call-in number: **915-320-4718** | **Conference ID: 679 153 730#**

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting [here](#). Look for the links for the 7/1/2021 meeting. If you would like to speak during public comment, then please sign up ahead of time by contacting Lori Kuczanski at

lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov or 915-494-6027 by noon on July 1.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact the USIBWC public affairs office at 915-494-6027 or

lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.

News media may contact:

Lori Kuczanski

(915) 494-6027

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USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, July 1, 2021

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. PDT

To join our Teams Meeting, go to our web page:

<https://go.usa.gov/xsbdb> and click on “Join”. If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the Join link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning.

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Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Daniel Avila, Acting Commissioner, USIBWC, and Jill Galvez, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Introduction of San Diego Field Office Area Operations Manager**—Morgan Rogers, San Diego Field Office Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **USIBWC Activities in San Diego**—Morgan Rogers, USIBWC, San Diego Field Office Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Update on the Evaluation of Possible USMCA-Funded Projects to Address Waterborne Pollution from Tijuana**— Doug Liden, Environmental Engineer, EPA Region 9 San Diego Border Office
- **Public Comment**—To make public comment, RSVP by noon on July 1 to lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov or 915-494-6027
- **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 915-494-6027 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov