



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
August 24, 2017

ACTIONS TO ADDRESS TIJUANA RIVER SEDIMENT AND WATER QUALITY, AND RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT OF THE TIJUANA ESTUARY ON AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 7 PUBLIC MEETING IN IMPERIAL BEACH, CA

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on **Thursday, September 7, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA.** The meeting will address a study of Tijuana River hydrology, floodplain and sediment transport, coupled research and management of the Tijuana Estuary, and an update on efforts to address Tijuana River water quality.

Raina Fulton, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, will discuss the cooperative study with the City of San Diego on the Tijuana River. Phase I of the study is a hydrology and hydraulic study that includes mapping, flood frequency analysis, and floodplain and sediment transport modeling. The study is expected to be completed soon. Phase II of the study will incorporate additional information from Mexico and will model existing and future conditions for the main river as well as Goat and Smuggles Canyons. Phase II will inform feasibility studies and designs for future sediment basins that are being planned for the watershed.

Jeff Crooks, Research Coordinator, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, will discuss the Reserve's long-term monitoring program that has been in place for more than 25 years, and collects a variety of water, weather, and biological data. The information is used to track ecological changes and help steer management activities, as well as inform education and outreach. Key areas of

interest include closure of the river mouth, effects of nutrient inputs, and changes to plant and animal assemblages over time.

The Citizens Forum will also hear from Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, on the current actions and activities under Minute 320, an agreement of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States, and Mexico, to address priority issues of water quality, sediment, and solid waste in the Tijuana River watershed. The Minute 320 Water Quality Work Group has convened several meetings to address ongoing water quality problems in the Tijuana River, and to implement recommendations from the investigative report of the February 2017 transboundary sewage spill. Among the actions are the development of a binational water quality monitoring program, installation of new gages to measure flow in the Tijuana River watershed, development of a scope of work for a diagnostic of the binational diversion and pumping system, including identification of alternatives for new infrastructure in the United States and Mexico, and increased binational inspections of the Tijuana River.

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, September 7, 2017
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, San Diego Field Office, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Coupled Research and Management of the Tijuana Estuary– Jeff Crooks, Research Coordinator, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Tijuana River Hydrology, Floodplain and Sediment Transport Study – Raina Fulton, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
- Update on Minute 320 Actions to Address Tijuana River Water Quality – Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC San Diego Field Office, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- 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.kuczanski@ibwc.gov