



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
September 4, 2014

OCEAN POLLUTION ON AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 18 PUBLIC MEETING IN IMPERIAL BEACH, CA

Efforts to address ocean pollution in the Tijuana area and new permit requirements for the international wastewater treatment plant in San Ysidro, CA will be the focus of an upcoming public meeting. The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on Thursday, September 18, 6:30 -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.

Michelle Zapata Luna with Tijuana Calidad de Vida AC (Tijuana Quality of Life Association) will discuss border region pollution as a multi-dimensional problem affecting public health, the environment and the economy of Playas de Tijuana and Rosarito, two beach communities in the area of Tijuana, Baja California. During rains, trash and wastewater from Tijuana flow into the ocean. Insufficient data exist to fully understand the health impacts from sewage-contaminated ocean water. Furthermore, solid waste poses a significant environmental threat to the coastal ecosystem. The presentation will cover efforts to: 1) Improve public notification of beach closures in Playas de Tijuana and Rosarito; 2) Build community capacity to monitor beach water quality; 3) Collect data related to ocean illnesses to educate decision-makers about the threats to the environment and public health; 4) Educate youth and ocean users about watershed and coastal conservation and ways to safeguard their health.

In addition, Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager with the USIBWC San Diego Office, will provide an update on the status of the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Commission's South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, which became effective on August 1, 2014. The plant, located in San Ysidro, CA, treats wastewater from Tijuana and discharges treated effluent into the Pacific Ocean in the United States. The new permit is similar to the original permit while adding some additional requirements such as establishment of a Spill and Transboundary Flow Prevention and Response Plan.

A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, September 18, 2014
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Agenda

- Call to Order – Steve Smullen, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Ocean Pollution and the Clean Beaches Project for Tijuana and Rosarito – Michelle Zapata Luna, Architect, Tijuana Calidad de Vida AC (Tijuana Quality of Life Association)
- Status Update on the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit – Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- 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 sally.spener@ibwc.gov