



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
September 29, 2010

OCTOBER 7 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AFFECTING THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on Thursday, October 7, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932. The meeting will focus on issues affecting the Tijuana River Valley near the U.S.-Mexico border. 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.

Commissioner Edward Drusina of the USIBWC and representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will discuss a planning effort that is underway to address stormwater, sediment, and trash problems affecting the Tijuana River Valley. Working with the City of San Diego as the project sponsor, the Corps of Engineers is working on a federal-local comprehensive plan to address the environmental concerns affecting the river valley in the United States. The USIBWC will provide coordination with Mexico for any planning activities or solutions that require study or work south of the border.

The forum will also hear about rare and federally-protected bird species found at the Tijuana Slough Refuge, presented by Kurt Roblek, Acting Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Diego Bay and Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuges. The close

proximity of the Tijuana Slough Refuge to the large human population centers of San Diego and Tijuana presents various challenges with human development pressures and associated “edge effects” on the refuge. Couple this with one newly-arrived rare species recently petitioned for federal protection preying on a longtime resident rare species that’s already federally protected, and the resource management dilemma begins.

In other business, USIBWC Area Operations Manager Steve Smullen will give an update on construction of the upgrade to the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP). The plant, which is located at the international border in San Diego County, treats wastewater from Tijuana. Construction is now 90% complete. The upgrade will improve the level of sewage treatment, resulting in cleaner effluent.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 619-662-7600 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

For more information:

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USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Steve Smullen, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Rare and Protected Bird Species at the Tijuana Slough Refuge – Kurt Roblek, Acting Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Diego Bay and Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuges
- Tijuana River Valley Stormwater and Sediment Control Planning – Edward Drusina, U.S. Commissioner, USIBWC, and Ed Demesa, Chief, Plan Formulation Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
- Update on Construction of the Secondary South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant – Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items