



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 26, 2020

BINATIONAL WATER QUALITY STUDY OF THE TIJUANA RIVER AND IMPROVMENTS TO WASTEWATER PUMP STATION CILA ON AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 5 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 **November 5, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. PST via webinar**. The meeting will cover the management and improvements at a wastewater pump station and the results of the water quality and sediment study in the Tijuana River and adjacent canyons.

USIBWC Area Operations Manager Nicolas Chapa will give a presentation on the installation by the Mexican Section of the IBWC of three new pumps at the pumping station adjacent to the Tijuana River called PB-CILA Defensive System. The new pumps have a design capacity of 500 liters per second each that will divert dry-weather sewage tainted flows in the Tijuana River to the San Antonio de los Buenos (SAB) treatment plant in southwestern Tijuana, thereby preventing those flows in the river from entering the U.S. Since new pumping equipment was put into operation, flows in the Tijuana River channel have been considerably reduced and, since Sept. 3, eliminated completely.

Wayne Belzer, Environmental Engineer, USIBWC, will discuss the one-year study the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, conducted of the Tijuana River and the adjacent canyons in the United States and in Mexico to determine the

chemical and biological constituents in the transboundary water flows and in the sediment. This presentation will provide a summary of the assessment performed on the data and the results of the analysis of the data detailing the chemical and microbiological parameters found in the river and canyons. The findings indicate the presence of untreated domestic and industrial wastewater.

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.

To join our Teams Meeting, [click here](#). Click on “Join Meeting”. 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: 387 441 543#**

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting [here](#). Look for the links for the 11/5/2020 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 November 5.

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
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USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, November 5, 2020

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. PST

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

<https://go.usa.gov/x7YYc> and click on “Join Meeting”. 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** – Nicolas Chapa, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Improvements to Mexico’s Wastewater Pumping Infrastructure in the Tijuana River Basin** — Nicolas Chapa, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Binational Water Quality Study of the Tijuana River and Adjacent Canyons and Drains**— Wayne Belzer, Environmental Engineer, USIBWC
- **Public Comment**—To make public comment, RSVP by noon on November 5 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