



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
November 21, 2017

TIJUANA RIVER SEDIMENT, INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT, AND WATER QUALITY ACTIVITIES ON AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 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, December 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 Tijuana River hydrology, floodplain and sediment transport study, the results of the program for integrated water management in the Tijuana River Basin, 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 Smugglers Canyons. Phase II will inform feasibility studies and designs for future sediment basins that are being planned for the watershed.

Gabriela Caloca Michel, Project Coordinator, Pronatura Noroeste, will discuss the results of a broad planning effort to address concerns in the Tijuana River Basin. Since 2016, with the financial support of the Gonzalo Rio Arronte Foundation, a multi-agency collaboration led by Pronatura Noroeste, the College of the Northern Border, Border Project of Environmental Education and Water and Social

Welfare has conducted a participatory planning process which culminated in development of the “Program for Integrated Management of Water in the Tijuana River Basin.” The objective of the Program is to improve the environmental quality of the Basin through social participation and ecologically-balanced water management. The Program was developed through workshops, visits, interviews, and meetings with approximately 300 actors. A socio-environmental diagnosis of the Tijuana River Basin was generated consisting of a master table that identifies priority problems, objectives, goals, and general actions. It proposes 669 projects with corresponding indicators to measure the progress in solving problems.

The Citizens Forum will also hear from USIBWC Area Operations Manager Steve Smullen 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. Among the actions are the development of a binational water quality monitoring program to include tributary canyons, development of a scope of work for a diagnostic of the binational diversion and pumping system, including development of alternatives in both the U.S. and Mexico, increased binational inspections of the Tijuana River, and a proposed sediment basin in the main Tijuana River channel. 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.

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

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Ed Spriggs, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Tijuana River Hydrology, Floodplain and Sediment Transport Study** — Raina Fulton, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District.
- **Results of the Program for Integrated Management of Water in the Tijuana River Basin** — Gabriela Caloca Michel, Project Coordinator, Pronatura Noroeste
- **Update on Minute 320 Actions to Address Tijuana River Water Quality** — Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, San Diego Field Office
- **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