



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
February 9, 2017

### **TRACKING TRASH ACROSS THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER AND DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE FOR THE TIJUANA RIVER WATERSHED ON AGENDA FOR MARCH 2 PUBLIC MEETING IN IMPERIAL BEACH, CA**

Environmental issues affecting the Tijuana River watershed will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Citizens Forum of the U. S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) on Thursday, March 2, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA.

Oscar Romo, Director of Alter Terra and Professor at the University of California at San Diego, will discuss a tracking study of solid waste that flows across the U.S.-Mexico border. The problem of solid waste disposal in Tijuana has grown over time as urban development, industry and population continue to expand. Challenges in providing reliable municipal trash pickup have led residents to dispose of waste in improvised and mostly illegal dump sites. The nonprofit organization Alter Terra has worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the City of Imperial Beach to identify illegal dump sites that are sources of the trash that affects areas in the Tijuana River Valley in the United States. The tracking study resulted in some positive outcomes which will help improve conditions in both countries.

In other business, Yamilett K. Carrillo Guerrero, Ph.D., Conservation Scientist, The International Community Foundation, will present on creating opportunities for a sustainable water future in the Tijuana-San Diego region. Based on the key ingredients that made Minute 319, an agreement of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, a success for communities

that share the Colorado River watershed, she will explore whether those ingredients can be fostered in other binational watersheds. The Tijuana River watershed is a binational ecosystem with cross-border connections that are well established by the communities. Her presentation will touch on what else can be done toward building a future in which these communities share a healthy, thriving environment.

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](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov).

News media may contact:

Lori Kuczanski  
(915) 832-4106  
[Lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:Lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov)

**USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Thursday, March 2, 2017**  
**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room**  
**301 Caspian Way**  
**Imperial Beach, CA 91932**

**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions – Steve Smullen, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Tracking Trash Across the U.S.-Mexico Border – Oscar Romo, Director, Alter Terra, and Professor at UC San Diego
- Creating Opportunities for a Sustainable Water Future in the Tijuana and San Diego Region – Yamilett K. Carrillo Guerrero, Ph.D., Conservation Scientist, The International Community Foundation
- 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](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov)