

The logo of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is a circular emblem. It features a stylized map of the United States and Mexico, with the U.S. flag colors (red, white, and blue) on the left and the Mexican flag colors (green, white, and red) on the right. The emblem is surrounded by the text "INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION" at the top and "COMISION INTERNACIONAL DE LIMITES Y AGUAS" at the bottom.

USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM ORIENTATION

Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary
March 17, 2016

Excellence through teamwork.



CITIZENS FORUM

- USIBWC established the first Citizens Forum Board in 1999 in Paso, TX-Las Cruces, NM
- Program expanded in early 2000s
 - USIBWC CF in San Diego County (2002)
 - Colorado River CF in Yuma and Imperial Counties
 - Southeast Arizona CF
 - Lower Rio Grande CF (TX)
- Mexican Section established Tijuana Citizens Forum in 2014.



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CITIZENS FORUM

- **CF Purpose:** To promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission activities and related projects in the San Diego region.
- Offers a means to share information with the public and for groups to share information with USIBWC.
- Diversity of viewpoints is welcome.
- CF is not a federal advisory committee.



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CITIZENS FORUM

- Intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued 2-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, water managers, irrigators, neighborhoods, environmentalists, recreational interests, government agencies, etc.



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CITIZENS FORUM

- All meetings are open to the public
- Regular communication with board via email
- Meeting notices, presentations, notes are available online at:

http://www.ibwc.gov/Citizens_Forums/CF_SBIWTP.html

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CITIZENS FORUM

- Past agenda items have included:
 - Tijuana River Watershed binational planning
 - Tijuana River flood control
 - Border wastewater issues
 - Regional environmental projects
 - Coastal water quality
 - History of boundary and water projects
 - Recreational resources in the border region



Sediment basin in Tijuana

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CITIZENS FORUM BOARD

- Board term is 2 years
- Board members serve as volunteers; no expense reimbursement
- Quarterly public meetings in San Diego County
- Field trips to border sites
- Board members expected to attend all meetings



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CITIZENS FORUM BOARD

- **Board Member Duties:**
 - Review and comment on projects and documents
 - Discuss Commission activities and projects
 - Present information on related activities
 - Bring issues to attention of the USIBWC



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CITIZENS FORUM BOARD

- Ten community board members plus USIBWC Area Operations Manager
- Two Co-Chairs:
 - USIBWC AOM Steve Smullen
 - Community Co-Chair selected by the board



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CITIZENS FORUM BOARD

- Co-chair duties
 - Attend all meetings
 - Chair every other meeting
 - Determine agenda items with input from board
 - Be available in between meetings to handle any business



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CITIZENS FORUM BOARD

- Discussion Items
 - Selection of a co-chair
 - Meeting Logistics
 - Days and times
 - Locations
 - Field trips and tours



Rio Grande CF board members at Monument #1

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**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION,
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO
UNITED STATES SECTION**



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