



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
January 6, 2011

JANUARY 20 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES 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, January 20, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932. The meeting will focus on water quality issues and regional history 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.

Steve Smullen, USIBWC Area Operations Manager, will discuss recent flood conditions in the Tijuana River Basin. The Commission's Tijuana River Flood Control Project, a concrete-lined portion of the river near the international border, experienced high flow for a brief period in late December. Commission personnel in the United States also coordinated closely with their Mexican counterparts regarding reservoir levels in both countries.

Mr. Smullen will also give an update on construction of the technology upgrade of the Commission's South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Diego. The plant treats wastewater originating in Tijuana, Mexico. With construction of the upgrade, the plant began providing secondary treatment in late 2010 to meet applicable U.S. water quality standards. The treated effluent is discharged 3.5 miles offshore into the Pacific Ocean. Remaining construction items, such as landscaping and paving, are scheduled to be completed in April 2011.

In other business, Dr. Gretel Roberts of Weston Solutions will give a presentation about microbial source tracking in the Tijuana River Estuary. In 2008, the City of Imperial Beach was awarded Clean

Beach Initiative funding to undertake a microbial source tracking study in the U.S. portion of the Tijuana River watershed. The presentation will summarize key findings to date.

Bruce Shaffer, Community Plans Liaison at Naval Base Coronado, will present an overview of military history in the Tijuana River Valley. The focus will be on the Naval Outlying Field (Ream Field) Imperial Beach, the only training center for Navy helicopter aviation on the West Coast. The presentation will also include brief summaries of supporting and parent Navy installations such as the Silver Strand, Naval Air Station North Island, and Naval Amphibious Base. The final part of the presentation will focus on funding programs to assist local agencies in compatibility land use planning.

Finally, USIBWC Engineer Planner Gabriel Duran will discuss how the southern boundary of California was established. The presentation will cover the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848 and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo -- the peace treaty that ended the war and established the boundary between the United States and Mexico. He will also discuss Monument 258, which was erected at the westernmost point of the land boundary, and the surveyors' difficulty in establishing the line connecting Monument 258 to the confluence of the Gila and Colorado Rivers. Additionally, he will explain the role of the early Boundary Commissioners in the establishment of the border line. Boundary demarcation remains an important responsibility of the International Boundary and Water Commission to this day.

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, January 20, 2011
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Oscar Romo, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Recap of Recent Flood Conditions in the Tijuana River Basin – Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Update on Construction of the Secondary South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant – Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Microbial Source Tracking in the Tijuana River Estuary – Gretel Roberts, Project Manager – Water Resources, Weston Solutions
- Military History in the Tijuana River Valley - Bruce Shaffer, Community Plans Liaison, Naval Base Coronado
- How the Southern Boundary of California Was Established - Gabriel Duran, P.E., Engineer Planner, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

The next meeting will be held April 13, 2011.