



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

For immediate release
September 2, 2015

Public Meeting Brings the Story of Community Groups, Governments Working Together to Solve Rio Alamar Channelization Challenge; and Progress Report on Tijuana River Valley Trails, Habitat Restoration

Community forum will bring a great story of cooperation by blue-collar and maquiladora workers working with non-profit organizations, government and community leaders to respond to the proposed channelization of the Rio Alamar in Tijuana.

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) Citizens Forum will bring this great story at 6:30 p.m., Thursday Sept. 17, at the Tijuana Estuary meeting room, 301 Caspian Way in Imperial Beach. The topic of “Community Sustainable Development for the Rio Alamar ” will be presented by Magdalena Cerda, border campaign director for Environmental Health Coalition; Anibal Mendez, community organizer for Chilpancingo Collective Pro Environmental Justice; and Carmen Romo, director of Tijuana Calidad de Vida. Since 2011, community groups have been working to find a sustainable alternative to the proposed channelization of the Rio Alamar, known as Cottonwood Creek in the United States. In July of 2015, after months of formal cooperative planning effort between community groups and the Mexican government, a development plan was finalized for the remaining un-channelized portion of the Rio Alamar. A progress report on the “Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Trails and Habitat Restoration” will be the topic Patrick McDonough, senior project manager, San Diego County Parks and Recreation, will cover. McDonough will explain the efforts taken to construct 22 miles of trails and restore nearly 40 acres of habitat in

the Tijuana River Valley. The presentation will go through the construction process, highlight the different types of trail construction and restored habitats in the valley, and provide an overview of some of the challenges encountered along the way.

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. The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries. In the San Diego-Tijuana area, the Commission is involved with boundary demarcation, Tijuana River flood control, and operation of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, among other responsibilities.

A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

Mario A. Montes
915-832-4794
mario.montes@ibwc.gov

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) invites you to a public meeting of the...

USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, September 17, 2015
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions:** Paloma Aguirre, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Community Sustainable Development for the Rio Alamar:** Magdalena Cerda, border campaign director for Environmental Health Coalition; Anibal Mendez, community organizer for Chilpancingo Collective Pro Environmental Justice; and Carmen Romo, director of Tijuana Calidad de Vida, will tell the story of the Rio Alamar and how working-class communities in Tijuana have found a sustainable alternative to the proposed Rio Alamar channelization.
- **Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Trails and Habitat Restoration Update:** Patrick McDonough, senior project manager, San Diego County Parks and Recreation, will give an update on the progress constructing 22 miles of trails and restoring nearly 40 acres of habitat in the Tijuana River Valley.
- 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 mario.montes@ibwc.gov.