



International Boundary and Water Commission United States and Mexico

For immediate release
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COMMISSIONERS SIGN TIJUANA RIVER BASIN AGREEMENT

- Marks the first Commission agreement focused on sediment and trash problems in the Tijuana River Basin.
- Establishes a framework of binational cooperation to address these issues.

Today, the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC) signed Minute 320 titled, “*General Framework for Binational Cooperation on Transboundary Issues in the Tijuana River Basin,*” which enables priority issues of sediment, trash, and water quality in the Tijuana River Basin to be addressed cooperatively.

The objective of this agreement is to benefit residents of both countries living in the Tijuana River Basin in the area of San Diego, California-Tijuana, Baja California through sustainable management of its transboundary resources. By removing trash and taking actions aimed at eliminating sediment transport into the Tijuana River channel, the goal is to achieve this sustainability.

This agreement will establish a Binational Core Group that will include representatives of the IBWC, federal, state, and local authorities, and non-governmental organizations from both countries. This group will recommend cooperative measures to address the issues of concern and define strategies to implement them.

In addition to the priority issues, the Binational Core Group may address other topics of mutual interest that would benefit the basin.

U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina noted, “The radical reduction of the sediment, trash and contaminants from the Tijuana River Basin will not be solved in a month or a year, but we are committing to implement this Minute to get the job done.”

Mexican Commissioner Roberto F. Salmon commented that this innovative agreement brings together the efforts by authorities and organizations in both countries with the goal of improving conditions in the basin through projects that are jointly identified.

The Commission adopted this agreement, which was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the 1944 Water Treaty, during a ceremony in Tijuana attended by representatives from federal, state, and local governments and non-governmental organizations from both countries. As part of the event, the United States Consul General in Tijuana, William A. Ostick, and the Director General of Special Affairs for Mexico’s Ministry of Foreign Relations, Mauricio Ibarra Ponce de Leon, delivered approval letters for the Minute; thus, the Minute entered into force immediately with the approval of both Governments.

The IBWC is an international organization created by the Governments of the United States and Mexico that is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries and settling differences that arise in the application of the treaties.

For more information:

Mario A. Montes

915-832-4794

Cell: 915-494-2067

mario.montes@ibwc.gov