



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
November 18, 2014

OUTLOOK FOR WINTER RAIN IN SAN DIEGO AND EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE TIJUANA RIVER WATERSHED ON AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 4 PUBLIC MEETING IN IMPERIAL BEACH, CA

The National Weather Service will discuss the winter weather outlook for the San Diego area at an upcoming public meeting in Imperial Beach, California. The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on Thursday, December 4, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA. 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.

Alexander Tardy with the San Diego National Weather Service Office will discuss historical drought and the El Niño Outlook for the region. His presentation will cover the evolution and current status of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) (fluctuations in sea-surface temperatures and air pressure in parts of the Pacific) and what that might mean for winter precipitation for southern California and its effect on runoff and flooding in the Tijuana River watershed. The forecast is for a weak El Niño or near neutral conditions, which historically have resulted in a wide range of precipitation outcomes.

The Citizens Forum will also hear about Tijuana River Action Month (TRAM) from Shannon Tunks, Community Outreach Assistant at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. TRAM is a series of volunteer-driven education and stewardship events that benefit the Tijuana River watershed. These events are held in September and October, during the narrow window of time between the end of the bird nesting season and the beginning of the rainy season. The goals of Tijuana River Action Month are to mobilize community volunteers and groups on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border

to become stewards of the Tijuana River Watershed as well as to recognize key efforts and investments by public and private agencies, businesses, non-profits and community groups to protect and restore the Tijuana River. The events that make up TRAM are sponsored by the Tijuana River Action Network (TRAN), a collaborative of grassroots community groups and non-profits from the United States and Mexico committed to cross-border collaboration to address the conservation and restoration of the Tijuana River watershed by engaging in outreach, education, and advocacy for natural resources. This year marked the 5th annual Tijuana River Action Month. Ms. Tunks will present details and outcomes of each of the TRAM 2014 core events.

In other business, Roberto Espinosa, Resident Engineer with the Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, will talk about the recently-inaugurated Citizens Forum in Tijuana, the first in Mexico. The kickoff for the Citizens Forum was held August 11, 2014 in conjunction with the 70th anniversary of the signing of the 1944 Water Treaty and the 125th anniversary of the Commission. The Mexican Citizens Forum has five public representatives from industry, academia, and nongovernmental organizations. Engineer Espinosa will discuss the structure of the Citizens Forum, the potential content of future meetings, and how future meetings will be announced.

A complete agenda for the December 4 meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum follows.

For more information:

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USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, December 4, 2014
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Agenda

- Call to Order – Steve Smullen, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Historical Drought and El Niño Outlook – Alexander Tardy, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, San Diego National Weather Service Office
- Status of the IBWC Mexican Section Citizens Forum – Roberto Espinosa, Resident Engineer, International Boundary and Water Commission, Mexican Section
- Tijuana River Action Month: 2014 Highlights and Accomplishments – Shannon Tunks, Community Outreach Assistant, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
- 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 sally.spener@ibwc.gov