

For immediate release
September 3, 2004

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS TIJUANA RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) announces a public meeting of the USIBWC Citizens' Forum at 6:00 p.m. on September 16 at the Imperial Beach Community Room, 825 Imperial Beach Boulevard, Imperial Beach, California. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about the Commission's projects and related issues in the area.

The Citizens' Forum will discuss the Tijuana River Watershed Binational Vision Project, an effort to develop a binational vision for this watershed, which is shared by San Diego County and the Mexican municipalities of Tecate, Tijuana, and Ensenada. The project is a collaborative effort of San Diego State University, the County of San Diego, two Mexican universities, and stakeholders from both sides of the border. Paul Ganster, Director of the Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias at San Diego State University, will discuss progress to date, including the draft vision document, and will suggest future challenges for management of this transborder human and natural system.

USIBWC State Affairs Officer Rick Porras will report on work to provide secondary treatment of wastewater from the Commission's South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP). The SBIWTP, located in San Diego at the international border, currently provides advanced primary treatment of wastewater from Tijuana, Mexico. The International Boundary and Water Commission is working on a project to develop a secondary treatment plant in Tijuana through a public-private partnership.

Additionally, Michael Handal of the City of San Diego will describe the proposed Smuggler's Gulch Sediment/Debris Basin. Smuggler's Gulch flows north from the border into the Tijuana River. During large storm events, sediment and debris are carried down the Gulch, blocking flow and creating a pond of stagnant water. Additionally, during high flows in the Tijuana River, sediments are carried downstream into the Tijuana Estuary, impacting this natural resource. Some flooding of private property may also occur. The conceptual Smuggler's Gulch Sediment Basin Project would intercept and collect all of the debris and most of the finer sediment.

A complete agenda appears below. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting can call 619-662-7600 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov.

For more information:

Sally Spener, 915-832-4175
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USIBWC CITIZENS' FORUM
Thursday, September 16, 2004, 6:00 p.m.
Imperial Beach Community Room
825 Imperial Beach Blvd.
Imperial Beach, CA

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- The Tijuana River Watershed Binational Vision Project - Paul Ganster, Director, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, San Diego State University
- Smuggler's Gulch Sediment/Debris Basin - Michael Handal, P.E., Project Manager, City of San Diego, Engineering and Capital Projects Department
- Update on Implementation of Public Law 106-457 related to Secondary Treatment of Wastewater - Rick Porras, USIBWC State Affairs Officer
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time.

For more information, call 619-662-7600 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov