



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

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USIBWC DECISION SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TIJUANA RIVER ECOSYSTEM

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Improvements to the Tijuana River Flood Control Project located in southern San Diego County, California. The ROD, signed by U.S. Commissioner Carlos Marin, selects the Multipurpose Project Management (MPM) Alternative for implementation.

Under the selected alternative, the USIBWC will continue to improve the functionality of the Tijuana River Flood Control Project to meet its mandate for flood control while supporting regional initiatives for improvement of water quality and environmental conditions. The MPM Alternative, developed with extensive public involvement, incorporates potential changes in operation and maintenance practices as well as regional initiatives by federal agencies, local government, and other organizations for watershed planning affecting the river and estuary, trash removal, and erosion control.

“The selected alternative will allow the agency to implement environmental improvements as opportunities arise,” said Commissioner Marin. “This will enable us to provide flood control while supporting regional initiatives to improve habitat.”

The Tijuana River Flood Control Project, operated by the USIBWC, includes a levee system that runs along a modified stream channel 2.3 miles long extending from the international

border northward to the start of the natural Tijuana River channel. The floodway between the levees encompasses approximately 400 acres. Immediately downstream of the USIBWC project are natural resource conservation areas with a variety of plant and animal species, including many protected species.

Issuance of the ROD follows preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) which evaluated the MPM Alternative as compared to current operation and maintenance activities. Although the agency has no current plans to implement new initiatives affecting the Tijuana River Flood Control Project, various environmental improvements have been considered at the conceptual level. USIBWC funding will be reviewed to see what improvements can be undertaken in the near future. The ROD will allow the USIBWC to move forward more quickly in evaluating environmental impacts when those initiatives are ready for implementation.

The ROD and PEIS are available on the USIBWC web page at:

http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/FINAL_ROD_Tijuana_PEIS_063008.pdf and

ftp://66.85.17.138/Final_PEIS_TJ_River_App_A_B_C_050608.pdf.

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