



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
June 30, 2009

JULY 16 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the USIBWC Citizens' Forum on Thursday, July 16, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932. The meeting will focus on stormwater, wastewater, and solid waste issues affecting the Tijuana River Valley. The purpose of the USIBWC Citizens' Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related issues in San Diego County.

The meeting will include a presentation by Hernando Duran, Director of the State Public Services Commission of Tijuana (CESPT), about wastewater treatment and water recycling programs in Tijuana. CESPT is currently making significant investments in sanitation infrastructure with a goal of eliminating discharges of untreated sewage into the Tijuana River and the Pacific Ocean. The “zero discharge” initiative includes construction of new infrastructure, development of a contingency plan with back-up generators in pump stations, and a stepped-up monitoring program.

The Citizens' Forum will also hear from Marcos Sarabia, Tijuana's Secretary of Urban Development, about improvements in solid waste management in the city. The modernization of the trash collection system is expected to greatly reduce the flow of trash into the Tijuana River Valley.

Clayton Phillips, Reserve Manager of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, will give an update on the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Project – an effort involving over 30

agencies. The main goals of the project are to stop the flow of trash in Mexico and at the border, clean up the Valley, and undertake environmental restoration projects.

In other business, USIBWC staff will give an update on construction of the upgrade to the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant, which is located in San Diego County, treats wastewater from Tijuana. The upgrade will provide a higher level of treatment to the wastewater before it is discharged 3.5 miles offshore in the Pacific Ocean.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 619-662-7600 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.gov.

For more information:

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USIBWC CITIZENS' FORUM
Thursday, July 16, 2009
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Oscar Romo, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Tijuana's Wastewater Treatment and Water Recycling Programs – Hernando Duran, Director, State Public Services Commission of Tijuana (CESPT)
- Solid Waste Management in Tijuana – Marcos Sarabia, Secretary of Urban Development of Tijuana
- Update on the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Project – Clayton Phillips, Reserve Manager, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Update on Construction of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade – USIBWC Staff
- Public Comment
- Suggested Future Agenda Items
- 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.gov