



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
August 8, 2013

TIJUANA RIVER PROJECTS ON AGENDA FOR AUGUST 22 PUBLIC MEETING IN IMPERIAL BEACH

Activities affecting the Tijuana River Valley will be the focus of a public meeting in Imperial Beach, California this month. The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on Thursday, August 22, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932. 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.

Doug Liden, Environmental Engineer with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will discuss a model he is working on with EPA's Office of Research and Development in Las Vegas, Nevada to estimate sediment loadings into the Tijuana River and Estuary. The model considers various land-use scenarios with and without the implementation of different sediment control Best Management Practices. Under an EPA contract, the University of Arizona has nearly completed a land-cover map for the entire watershed, which will be used in the model. By quantifying the impacts of unplanned development, stream channelization, road paving, sediment capture structures, conservation areas, etc., government officials and city planners will be able to prioritize sediment control projects and make more environmentally sound land-use decisions.

In other business, Dr. Falk Fedderson with the Scripps Institute of Oceanography will discuss Near-shore Models for the Tijuana River Plume Tracker. The Plume Tracker is an operational, data-driven model of the fate and transport of river plume water from the Tijuana River after it reaches the Pacific Ocean. The model was developed using surface current observations provided by stations operated as part of the San Diego Coastal Ocean Observing System. Because currents close to the shoreline can be quite different from those farther offshore, researchers would like to improve the current near-shore trajectory estimates of the plume tracker model.

Finally, Patrick McDonough with the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation will provide an update on trail system enhancements for the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. The 1700-acre regional park is an integral piece of the Tijuana River Valley north of the border and is dedicated to habitat preservation and passive recreation. Through partnerships with other agencies, the County of San Diego is poised to start construction of a 22-mile trail system later this year.

A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, August 22, 2013
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Steve Smullen, USIBWC, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Sediment Modeling for the Tijuana River Watershed – Doug Liden, Environmental Engineer, USEPA Border Affairs Office, San Diego
- Near-shore Models for the Tijuana River Plume Tracker – Dr. Falk Fedderson, Acting Professor, Research Oceanography, Scripps Institute of Oceanography
- Trail System Enhancements, Tijuana River Valley Regional Park – Patrick McDonough, Senior Project Manager, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
- 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.