

**USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Thursday, March 5, 2020**  
**5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room**  
**301 Caspian Way**  
**Imperial Beach, CA 91932**  
**Tentative Meeting Notes\***

**Attendees:**

There were approximately 21 members of the public present. This was the first meeting with the 2020-2022 Board Members. The meeting was chaired by Principal Engineer Daniel Avila from Headquarters. Nicolas Chapa is the Area Operations Manager for the San Diego Field Office and he will be the Co-Chair for future meetings. Commissioner Jayne Harkins was present and gave opening remarks to the group and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**[Overview of the History, Mission and Projects of the International Boundary and Water Commission](#)**

A presentation was made on the agency's mission, which is to apply the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico. An overview was given on some of the boundary Treaties and the structure of the IBWC per the 1944 Water Treaty. The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) has a U.S. Section and a Mexican Section, each headed by a Commissioner. IBWC Minutes were discussed, which are binding Commission agreements intended to implement treaty. There are currently 324 Minutes approved. Ms. Spener discussed the USIBWC field offices along the border from South Texas to San Diego, CA and what their mission is in relation to the agency's mission. Commission responsibilities include boundary demarcation, operation of international wastewater treatment plants, operation of international dams, flood control, and water delivery.

**[Status of Tijuana Diversion System](#) – Daniel Avila, Principal Engineer of Operations, USIBWC**

PE Avila gave a presentation on the Tijuana Watershed to give the Board Members and the public an idea on how large the watershed is. The watershed is 1,750 square miles of which 75% is in Mexico, and 25% in the U.S. Mr. Avila explained that even ½ inch of rain is about 15,200 million gallons of runoff. The South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) has a 25 million gallon per day (mgd) capacity. Over 600 wastewater treatment plants would be required to treat runoff from one ½ inch rainfall event.

He presented a series of maps and photos of Pump Station CILA (PB CILA), which diverts flow from the Tijuana River when the flow does not exceed 23 mgd.

It diverts 23 mgd from the Tijuana River to PB CILA lift station during dry weather conditions, usually around April to October.

PB CILA conveys 23 mgd to the International Collector and Pump Station 1A during dry weather season. There are 4 low flow pumps not in service, 3 vertical pumps which are 11.5 mgd each of which there is 1 primary pump, 1 backup, and 1 not in service. There are 3 horizontal pumps that are 11.5 mgd with 1 primary, 1 back up and 1 spare that is working.

When flows are greater than 23 mgd at the Tijuana River, PB CILA is turned off to prevent pump damage. The flow continues into the U.S. The liquid flowing into the U.S. is 12 mgd effluent from La

Morita and Herrera Wastewater Treatment Plants, 5-11 mgd urban wastewater runoff, and excess liquid is stormwater.

Recommendations for PB CILA

-Identify where this 5-11 MGD Wastewater Runoff is coming from and tie it to the Wastewater system

-Isolate the 12 MGD Effluent from La Morita and Herrera Wastewater Treatment Plants from the system (send to Dam or end of SBIWTP)

-Design a system to settle out the sediment and trash prior to going to the PB CILA pumps, increase capacity if possible

-Divert all 23 MGD to San Antonio de los Buenos instead of San Diego International Wastewater Treatment Plant .

PB 1A conveys 11.5 mgd from PB CILA to the ocean. There are 3 pairs of pumps: 11.5 mgd per pair working in series, 1 working pair- one pair required to meet the demand.

The recommendations for PB 1A are to repair at least 1 set of pumps for backup 11.5 mgd.

PB 1B conveys 23 mgd to San Antonio de los Buenos Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). It has 5 working pumps, 11.5 mgd per pair working in series, and 3 pairs working – 2 pairs are required to meeting the demand. There are no backup pumps available.

Laureles 1 conveys canyon runoff collection to San Antonio de los Buenos WWTP. There are 3 pumps that are 70 liters/second, 2 primary pumps working and 2 are required to meet the demand. 1 backup pump is not in service.

Laureles 2 conveys canyon runoff collection to San Antonio de los Buenos WWTP. There are 4 pairs of pumps: 66 liters/second pair working in series, 3 primary pairs working -3 required to meet the demand and 1 backup pair not in service.

During the winter, the Matadero pump station in Mexico flooded and their electrical system went out.

Matadero conveys canyon runoff collection to San Antonio de los Buenos WWTP. There are 5 pairs of pumps: 150 liters/second per pair working in parallel, 2 pairs working – 2 required to meet the demand, and 2 backup pairs installed, undergoing testing, and 1 backup pair being repaired.

The recommendations for Laureles 1 is to fix the 70 lps pump for backup, for Laureles 2 is it to fix the 66 lps pump for backup, and for Matadero, none because backup is available.

**Orientation for New Citizens Forum Board Members – Lori Kuczmanski, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC**

Ms. Kuczmanski presented the background on the Citizens Forum and expectations of board members.

The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission activities and related projects in the San Diego area. The meetings offer a means to share information with the board and hear about what is happening in different areas. The Citizens Forum is intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued 2-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, water managers, irrigators, neighborhoods, environmentalists, recreational interests, government agencies, etc.

Meetings are open to public. There are emails sent out for reminders and information is posted on the Citizens Forum webpage: [https://www.ibwc.gov/Citizens\\_Forums/CF\\_SBIWTP.html](https://www.ibwc.gov/Citizens_Forums/CF_SBIWTP.html)

All Board members are volunteers and receive no payment. Board members are expected to attend all meetings. Members are encouraged to help share what is happening with their organizations. Wide ranges of issues are discussed.

### **Board Discussion**

The Board selected Jon Jacobson for 2020 and Jill Galvez for 2021 as Co-Chairs. Also discussed was the possibility of inviting more speakers from our Mexican counterparts, and briefly touched on the EPA process. Meetings will be held on Thursday evenings.

### **Public Comment**

The next Citizens Forum meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Pacific time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

\*Meeting notes are tentative and summarize in draft the contents and discussion of Citizens Forum Meetings. While these notes are intended to provide a general overview of Citizens Forum Meetings, they may not necessarily be accurate or complete, and may not be representative of USIBWC policy or positions.