



International Boundary and Water Commission United States and Mexico

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COMMISSION CONVENES MEETING TO DISCUSS CHALLENGES IN THE TIJUANA RIVER BASIN

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, on January 28 convened a meeting at the municipal government building in Tijuana, Baja California of the Binational Core Group formed to address priority issues of water quality, sediment, and trash in the Tijuana River Basin. In accordance with a 2015 Commission agreement known as Minute No. 320, “General Framework for Binational Cooperation on Transboundary Issues in the Tijuana River Basin,” the purpose of the BCG is to identify cooperative measures of mutual interest to improve the Tijuana River Basin. BCG members include representatives of federal, state, and local government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector from both countries.

At the meeting, the Commission announced that it is forming a Rapid Response Team to respond to sanitation emergencies and to perform a risk analysis of existing infrastructure. The Commission also reported on [actions undertaken to address a blocked drainage pipe in Mexico](#) next to the international border at Smuggler’s Gulch/Matadero Canyon.

For the first time, the BCG’s activities included public participation. The BCG heard from 15 participants who spoke on a variety of topics, including:

- Environmental education
- Marine pollution and coastal currents on both sides of the border
- Impact of pollution on the Tijuana River Estuary and on beach closures

- Wastewater reuse
- Need to involve local groups

The BCG discussed plans to reconvene the three work groups -- Water Quality, Sediment, and Trash – as soon as possible with the involvement of stakeholders from both countries to provide technical assistance to address these priority topics. The need to improve communication protocols between the two countries was also addressed.

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