



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
June 26, 2014

TIJUANA RIVER AND ALAMAR ARROYO PROJECTS ON AGENDA FOR JULY 10 PUBLIC MEETING IN IMPERIAL BEACH, CA

Restoration of the riparian corridor of the Tijuana River and proposed projects affecting the Alamar Arroyo in Tijuana will be the focus of an upcoming public meeting in Imperial Beach, California. The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on Thursday, July 10, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA. 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.

Gabriela Caloca, a Project Coordinator with Pronatura Noroeste, will present a restoration plan for 70 hectares along 3 kilometers of the Tijuana River immediately downstream of Rodriguez Dam in Tijuana. Pronatura was recently awarded a grant to help recover one of Tijuana's last remaining natural riverine areas which has not been channelized. This initiative will use an integrated vision to build partnership with stakeholders, establish long-term processes for the management of the Tijuana River watershed and improve the general quality of life for the community. The action plan includes the sustainable and efficient management of water, restoration of riparian systems, improved water quality and recovery of coastal ecosystems. Water for this project will be provided by the Tijuana utility (CESPT) from the Arturo Herrera and La Morita wastewater treatment plants under a special cooperative agreement with Pronatura.

In other business, Margarita Diaz with Proyecto Fronterizo de Educacion Ambiental will discuss issues affecting the Alamar Arroyo in Tijuana. The presentation will describe the main achievements and challenges of the Alamar Technical Committee which has been working in an interdisciplinary and multi-sector way since June 2012 to respond to citizens' concerns about the implementation of the channelization of the Arroyo Alamar and construction of the "Via Rapida Alamar" roadway project. The purpose of establishing the Technical Committee has been to provide a space for analysis of information and the organization of stakeholders to coalesce informed decisions about the best alternative for the third stage of the channelization of the Alamar Arroyo – one that is technically realistic, economically viable, environmentally feasible and socially acceptable. The presentation will address the challenges in the process of formalizing the Technical Committee, the current status, and the main positions of the various players in relation to alternatives that have been identified to date.

Finally, Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager with the USIBWC San Diego Field Office, will present the results from a meeting held in late April 2014 at which officials from the United States and Mexico discussed a draft Minute for the Tijuana River Watershed. The Minute, a proposed agreement of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, would establish a framework for cooperation between the two countries to address transboundary issues in the Tijuana River basin such as stormwater, sediment, and solid waste. Mr. Smullen will also provide a status update of the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Commission plant in San Ysidro, CA that treats wastewater from Tijuana and discharges treated effluent into the Pacific Ocean in the United States.

A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, July 10, 2014
Tijuana Estuary Meeting Room
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932
6:30pm – 8:30pm

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Steve Smullen, USIBWC, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Restoration of the Riparian Corridor of the Tijuana River – Gabriela Caloca, Project Coordinator with Pronatura Noroeste
- Alamar Arroyo Projects, Channelization versus Plating: Alamar Technical Committee – Margarita Diaz, Architect and Director, Proyecto Fronterizo de Educacion Ambiental
- Update on the proposed Minute on Trash and Sediment in the Tijuana River Watershed – Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Status Update on the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit– Steve Smullen, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- 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 email sally.spener@ibwc.gov.