



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
October 21, 2022

### **EFFORTS TO UPGRADE SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE AT SAN DIEGO-TIJUANA TO BE DISCUSSED AT NOVEMBER 3 PUBLIC MEETING**

The United States Section of the [International Boundary and Water Commission](#) (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on **November 3, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. PDT via webinar**. The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related issues. The meeting will focus on work underway to upgrade wastewater collection and treatment systems along the San Diego, CA -Tijuana, BC border.

Steven Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will provide a summary of the public review process for the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the proposed USMCA Mitigation of Contaminated Transboundary Flows Project (USMCA Project). The USMCA Project involves the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure to reduce transboundary flows of untreated wastewater, trash, and sediment that routinely enter the United States from Mexico via the Tijuana River, its tributaries, and across the maritime boundary along the San Diego County coast. Mr. Smith will summarize the number and type of comments received on the Draft PEIS. He will also describe the next steps in the environmental process and the anticipated schedule to finalize the PEIS and provide compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act for the core projects described in the PEIS.

In addition, USIBWC Environmental Management Division Chief Gilbert Anaya will discuss the \$4,659,432 contract recently awarded to Arcadis, U.S., Inc. to start work on the assessment of the USIBWC's South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in San Ysidro as part of the USMCA Project. Mr. Anaya will present on the key elements included in the evaluation of the condition of the SBIWTP, planning for expansion of the plant, and an

initial schedule of activities. The plant expansion is part of a package of projects in both countries identified in an agreement known as Minute 328 expected to result in a 50% reduction in the number of days of transborder wastewater flow in the Tijuana River and an 80% reduction in the volume of untreated wastewater discharged to the Pacific Ocean six miles south of the border.

In other business, Morgan Rogers, P.E., USIBWC Area Operations Manager in San Diego, will provide an update on operational issues at the border, including the status of repairs to a sewage pipeline in Tijuana that ruptured over the summer, sending sewage into the Tijuana River.

To join our Teams meeting, use the following link: <https://bit.ly/USIBWCinSD> and click the “Join” button. If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. Or join by phone. Call-in number: (915) 320-4718 | Conference ID: 714 899 94#

If you would like to speak during public comment, then please sign up ahead of time by contacting Sally Spener at [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov) or 915-832-4175 by noon on November 2.

For more information:

Sally Spener  
(915) 832-4175  
[sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov)

**USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Thursday, November 3, 2022**  
**5:30 – 7:30 p.m. PDT**  
<https://bit.ly/USIBWCinSD>  
**(915) 320-4718 | Conference ID: 714 899 94#**

**Agenda**

- **Welcome and Introductions**— Jill Galvez, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Remarks from the Commissioner** – Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E., Commissioner, USIBWC
- **Status Update on the PEIS for the USMCA Mitigation of Contaminated Transboundary Flows Project** – Steven Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- **Contract for Program Management and Assessment for the Treatment Plant Expansion Project** – Gilbert Anaya, Chief, Environmental Management Division
- **Update on Border Sanitation Infrastructure Operation and Maintenance** — Morgan Rogers, San Diego Field Office Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- **Public Comment** (To make public comment, RSVP by noon on Nov. 2 to [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov) or 915-832-4175)
- **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 915-832-4175 or e-mail [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov)*