



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 22, 2021

U.S. COMMISSIONER TO SPEAK AT NOVEMBER 4 CITIZENS FORUM MEETING FOR SAN DIEGO; PROJECTS TO ADDRESS WATER POLLUTION FROM TIJUANA AND SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT ON AGENDA

Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner, head of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will attend the next public meeting of the USIBWC Citizens Forum on **November 4th, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. PDT via webinar**. The meeting will cover recent upgrades to a pump station in Tijuana, United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) projects in the San Diego region, and sediment management.

Morgan Rogers, P.E., Civil Engineer, Area Operations Manager, San Diego Field Office, USIBWC, will be speaking on the recent equipment and operations upgrades to the PB CILA pump station. PB CILA remains a critical component in the Tijuana wastewater treatment system, as well as having close operational ties to the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant in the United States. Recent PB CILA upgrades have resulted in more efficient operations and reliable service in support of the efforts of the International Boundary and Water Commission to reduce and prevent transboundary wastewater flows.

In the Tijuana River Valley and neighboring coastal areas, contaminated flows from Mexico enter the U.S. and create significant negative impacts to water quality, public health, and the environment. In 2020, the U.S. government, through the EPA, committed \$300 million in the USMCA Trade Agreement to identify infrastructure solutions to mitigate this decades-old problem. Doug Liden, Environmental Engineer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 San Diego Border Office, will provide an update on the evaluation of infrastructure projects to support a comprehensive solution to the transboundary wastewater pollution issues in the San Diego-Tijuana region, in accordance with the USMCA treaty legislation.

Bryn Evans, Project Manager, Dudek, will discuss the Tijuana River Valley Sediment

Management Work Plan and Monitoring Program Project. The Project is designed to develop a sediment management work plan to maximize the local beneficial reuse of sediment and to develop and implement a baseline water quality and sediment monitoring program. The baseline water quality and sediment monitoring program supports the development of sediment management activities through characterization of stormwater and dry weather flows that enter the Valley. The project includes sediment characterization sample collection to supplement existing data and information for potential sediment source areas within the Valley. Preliminary water quality monitoring results and sediment characterization activities will be discussed.

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.

To join our Teams Meeting, [click here](#). Click on “Join.” If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the Join link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning.

Or join by phone: Call-in number: **915-320-4718** | **Conference ID: 219 926 903#**

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting [here](#). Look for the links for the 11/4/2021 meeting. If you would like to speak during public comment, then please sign up ahead of time by contacting Lori Kuczanski at lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov or 915-494-6027 by noon on Nov. 4.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact the USIBWC public affairs office at 915-494-6027 or lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.

News media may contact:

Lori Kuczanski

(915) 494-6027

lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov

USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, November 4, 2021

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. PDT

To join our Teams Meeting, go to our web page:

<https://go.usa.gov/xsbdb> and click on “Join”. If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the Join link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning.

Or join by phone: **Call-in number: 915-320-4718 | Conference ID: 219 926 903#**

Agenda

- **Opening Remarks**—Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, Commissioner, USIBWC
- **Welcome and Introductions** – Morgan Rogers, San Diego Field Office Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **PB CILA Pump Station Upgrades to Reduce Transboundary Flow**—Morgan Rogers, San Diego Field Office Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Projects in the Tijuana River Watershed**— Doug Liden, Environmental Engineer, EPA Region 9 San Diego Border Office
- **Tijuana River Valley Water Quality & Sediment Management**—Bryn Evans, Project Manager, Dudek
- **Public Comment**—To make public comment, RSVP by noon on November 4 to lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov or 915-494-6027
- **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 915-494-6027 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov