



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
February 17, 2022

USIBWC PROJECTS AND MODELING TO REDUCE COASTAL CONTAMINATION TO BE DISCUSSED AT MARCH 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 **March 3, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. 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.

Morgan Rogers, P.E., Civil Engineer, Area Operations Manager, San Diego Field Office, USIBWC, will give a review of the overall wastewater system, to include meters, gages, water quality sampling, and inspections that the USIBWC utilizes to monitor the operations and performance of the wastewater system, to include the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant and canyon collectors. Rogers will give an update on the transboundary flow issues at Stewart's Drain related to the International Collector in Tijuana. The USIBWC and the Mexican Section are working jointly to resolve infrastructure problems that have caused transboundary flow of wastewater into the United States at the San Diego, California-Tijuana, Baja California international boundary.

Falk Feddersen, Physical Oceanographer, Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California at San Diego, led a team of researchers to model the coastal ocean and sewage sources to prioritize improvements to reduce both beach closures and the number of swimmers who become ill from contaminated ocean water. The study concluded that improving the San Antonio de los Buenos (SAB) treatment plant in Mexico led to the largest improvement in pathogen concentrations, reduction in swimmer illness, and fewer beach closures, and was more effective than reduced flows from the Tijuana River Estuary. Feddersen will discuss how the modeling study has helped guide how border infrastructure improvement funds are allocated

by indicating which sewage infrastructure strategy results in the largest reduction in beach closures.

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: 547 224 55#**

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting [here](#). Look for the links for the 3/3/2022 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 March 3.

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:
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USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, March 3, 2022

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. PST

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.

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Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Morgan Rogers, San Diego Field Office Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Modeling Swimmer Illness for Wastewater Infrastructure Scenarios in the San Diego-Tijuana (US/MX) Border Region**— Falk Feddersen, Physical Oceanographer, Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California at San Diego
- **USIBWC Monitoring Program and Transboundary Flow at Stewart’s Drain** —Morgan Rogers, San Diego Field Office Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Public Comment**—To make public comment, RSVP by noon on March 3 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