

STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 20-21, 2018

18. TIJUANA RIVER AND TIJUANA ESTUARY**Today's Item****Information** **Action**

Receive an informational presentation from the California State Coastal Conservancy regarding cross-border pollution challenges and actions in the Tijuana River and Tijuana Estuary.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Originally-scheduled presentation Apr 18-19, 2018; Ventura
- **Today's rescheduled presentation Jun 20-21, 2018; Sacramento**

Background

The Tijuana River is fed by a large binational watershed of approximately 1,750 square miles that lies across the California - Mexico border. Approximately 75% of the watershed is within Mexico and encompasses the densely urbanized city of Tijuana, Mexico. The watershed drains into what is casually known as the Tijuana Estuary in the United States, where the land makes up a somewhat complex map of cooperating land management agencies, and ultimately drains into the Pacific Ocean in the city of Imperial Beach.

Sewage infrastructure inadequacies have created recurring sewage pollution problems in the Tijuana River and the Tijuana Estuary. Government organizations on both sides of the border are working collaboratively on multiple fronts to prevent sewage spills from crossing the border and to address underlying sewage infrastructure problems. The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) is the lead binational agency responsible for implementing water treaty rights and obligations between the U.S. and Mexico, including those related to sewage and associated water quality problems. Efforts on both sides of the border have led to the construction and ongoing operation of diversion structures, pump stations and treatment plants to reduce the frequency, volume, and pollutant levels of transboundary sewage flows.

In late 2017, FGC requested a presentation regarding water quality issues in the Tijuana River and Tijuana Estuary. Today, staff from the California State Coastal Conservancy will provide a presentation regarding cross-border pollution challenges and actions.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits (N/A)****Motion/Direction (N/A)**