

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
MARCH 5, 2020**

ITEM 7

SUBJECT

California-Mexico Border Regions: Update Regarding Transboundary Pollution and Impacts on Local Communities, the New River, Imperial and Mexicali Valleys, and the Tijuana River Watershed and Estuary (*Adriana Godinez, David Gibson*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational item only; no recommendation.

KEY ISSUE

This item is an opportunity for the Colorado River and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Boards) and members of the public to learn about important border-related topics that are sometimes overshadowed by the focus on border wastes.

PRACTICAL VISION

Chapter 4 of the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision, *Proactive Public Outreach and Communication*, is focused on implementing the core values of leadership, communication and transparency. This item provides an excellent opportunity for the Boards and the public to learn about border issues relevant to the history and natural resources of both regions.

DISCUSSION

The Chairs of the Colorado River and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Boards agreed to host a symposium-style informational item at their March 5, 2020, joint meeting. Each Board has separately received several updates and informational items on the impacts and issues surrounding transboundary flows of wastes. Other border-related topics, including the historical development of the region, the challenges and opportunities for environmental enhancement, and adaptation to climate change have been overshadowed by the discussion on border wastes. Sources, conveyances, and impacts of transboundary waste flows are being addressed through several efforts in both regions, including development and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), issuance of Investigative Order No. R9-2020-0030, funding opportunities through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), and federal litigation. The purpose of this informational item is to share contextual information on border region issues, especially those relevant to the history and natural resources of both regions. Speakers from the San Diego and Imperial Valley campuses of San Diego State University (SDSU), the Tijuana and Mexicali campuses of El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF), Proyecto Fronterizo de Educación Ambiental (PFEA) in Tijuana, the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR), California State Parks, Imperial County Public Health Department, Calexico Chamber of Commerce, the City of San Diego, and the County of San Diego were invited to share recent border region water and natural resources-related information.

Invited Speakers:

- Dr. Paul Ganster (SDSU, San Diego campus)
- Dr. Carlos Herrera (SDSU, Imperial Valley campus)
- Dr. Carlos de la Parra (COLEF, Tijuana campus)
- Dr. Alfonso Cortez Lara (COLEF, Mexicali campus)
- Margarita Díaz (PFEA)
- Dr. Jeff Crooks (TRNERR)
- Christopher Peregrin (California State Parks)
- Trina Hamby, Imperial County Public Health Department
- Calexico Chamber of Commerce
- City of San Diego
- County of San Diego

LEGAL CONCERNS

None.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the Colorado River and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board web sites and sent to subscribers of the electronic mailing lists for Board meetings.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None.