

Minute 320 established an inclusive process under the framework of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC) to obtain advice and recommendations from stakeholder groups on transboundary issues in the Tijuana River Basin and to coordinate the identification and implementation of cooperative measures that are jointly determined to be of common interest and benefit to residents on both sides of the border. The Minute establishes a Binational Core Group (BCG) that serves as a clearinghouse for the consideration and recommendation of cooperative measures in the Tijuana River basin. The Minute identifies priority issues as solid waste, sediment, and water quality. In addition to the Commission itself, membership of the BCG comprises federal, state and local governmental entities, as well as non-governmental organizations, with responsibility for and interest in such issues in the Tijuana River basin. Appointed by the IBWC, the BCG defines and make recommendations for the execution of priority projects, arranges for their study, determines costs and generally oversees a broad-based approach for addressing these issues on a basin-wide basis. The Minute also provides for the creation of Binational Work Groups to focus on specific cooperative measures.

Since the signing of the Minute on Oct 5, 2015 IBWC has formed the BCG and the 3 BWGs. Since November of last year IBWC has held two BCG meetings and three meetings each of the binational work groups.

The following is a status update of the three priority topic areas and work elements that have been approved or will be recommended for approval.

1) Water Quality WG

- a. Received approval for installation of a new flow meter at Pump Station CILA. This will provide a flow measurement via the web and notification of on/off status to an email list. We will be sending the scope of work to contractor shortly – they have already made a site visit to identify any issues with the install. Timeframe – should be installed and operational by Nov 1.
- b. The group was presented the protocol for operation of Pump Station CILA at the last meeting held June 22, and work group members will be providing comments on the protocol at the next meeting (scheduled for Aug 18), with the ultimate goal of improving efficiency and effectiveness of the PS operation.
- c. Reinitiated quarterly inspections of the Tijuana River channel and the flows entering the channel – first inspection was conducted on June 28
- d. Exchange of WWTP Effluent Data. Mexico to provide their monthly treatment plant effluent results.

2) Sediment

- a. Received information on US Army Corps of Engineers Hydrologic and Hydraulic study of the Tijuana River Valley by the City of San Diego. This included a summary of proposed phases of work and proposed scope of work for Phase 2 which would extend study upstream into Mexico. The information was provided to CILA/Conagua and Mexico is reviewing and will be providing comments within 30 days. If this effort receives binational support then a long term goal would be to use the study as a vehicle to develop a regional sediment management plan.

3) Solid Waste

- a. Agreement was reached on recommending to the BCG a feasibility study that would look at installation of trash booms in the main stem of the TJ River on the US side, in Matadero Canyon and in Canon Sainz on the Mexico side. Study would look at design criteria, types of booms, recommended locations, proposed construction and O&M costs and cost sharing. Proposed to recommend to BCG that USIBWC will fund feasibility study.