

**Tijuana River Watershed Management Area  
Meeting Minutes  
August 15, 2017 8:30 am to 10:00 am  
County Operations, 5510 Overland Avenue, 4th Floor Room 451**

**Attendees:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Names</b>
City of Imperial Beach (IB)	Chris Helmer
City of San Diego (SD)	Brianna Menke
	Heather Krish
	Julia Chase
	Ming Lai
	Carline Hua
County of San Diego (County)	Tracy Cline
	Rouya Rasoulzadeh
	Todd Snyder
Amec Foster Wheeler (Amec)	Matt Rich
	Brenda Stevens
D-MAX Engineering, Inc. (D-MAX)	John Quenzer
Dudek (Dudek)	Bryn Evans

**1. Call to order:** 8:30 am

**2. Roll Call**

All participants introduced themselves.

**3. Time for public to speak on items not on the agenda**

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

**4. Approve minutes from previous meeting**

SD motioned to approve the minutes from the July 2017 meeting. IB seconded. Meeting minutes were approved without further edits or revisions.

- **Action item:** D-MAX will post meeting minutes on the Project Clean Water website.

**5. Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team update**

The next TRVRT meeting will occur on August 16, 2017. Other watershed activities include:

- a) In early August, IB filed a notice of intent to sue the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) for violations of the Clean Water Act. The desired result is to spur the U.S. government to invest in infrastructure and address flow of polluted wastewater from Mexico into the Tijuana River. IB hopes to gain the support of other RAs during the 60 day filing period that began when the notice of intent to sue was submitted. The U.S. Border Patrol Union may also file a separate suit regarding the potentially hazardous conditions caused by the binational flows. IBWC has responded by developing a monitoring plan for sampling in the river valley and showing progress on additional studies and programs it implements in the watershed.
- b) The San Diego Water Board has indicated that it still plans to issue a TMDL, but that it is likely still approximately two years out. An investigative order (IO) may be developed for more immediate issuance to the IBWC. The IO seeks to ensure the IBWC is implementing the programs it has committed to previously.

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- c) The data exchange between Mexico and San Diego Copermittees related to SD's H&H study is planned for August 31, 2017.
  - d) UC Irvine FloodRISE team has released a collection of flood hazard maps for the Tijuana River Valley and Goat Canyon. The maps are comprehensive and include data on flood depths, forces, and erosion potential. Links are below:
    - Tijuana River Valley maps: [bit.ly/floodrise\\_TRV](http://bit.ly/floodrise_TRV)
    - Goat Canyon maps: [bit.ly/floodrise\\_GC](http://bit.ly/floodrise_GC)
  - e) Various reports on how money appropriated via Senate Bill 507 may be used have been put out recently, some of which appear not to be fully accurate. The total amount of funding is \$2.1 million per [Senator Heuso's website](#), but of that the maximum that can be used for studies is \$500,000. The text of the bill itself can be viewed [here](#). Note that as of September 14, 2017, the bill had passed the Assembly and the Senate but had not yet been formally signed into law by the Governor.
- **Action item:** The Consultant team will distribute the Tijuana River Valley/Goat Canyon Flood Hazard Maps to the group.

#### **6. Watershed Special Study Planning for FY18**

The draft list of potential options for watershed special study budget was distributed to the group on July 17, 2017. Study Options include:

- Sediment Special Study Phase II
- Modified Special Study: Integrated Sediment and Trash Assessment
- Develop a "State of the Watershed"
- Support/Collaborate with the TRVRT on existing projects
- BMP Feasibility Assessment for Federal Property East of Dairy Mart Road- As part of recent updates, the IBWC has noted they intend to conduct BMP Feasibility Assessment for Federal Property East of Dairy Mart Road.

The group discussed the potential options and directed the consultant team to develop a more detailed scope and cost estimate for the "State of the Watershed" option, as described below. The County also noted that "State of the Watershed" conveys a more comprehensive and in-depth assessment than intended, and that a different title for the document would be more appropriate.

- Develop a public friendly overview of the watershed water quality and protection efforts—A watershed approach considers the entire geographic area that a watercourse drains to address a broad range of issues, which are not always considered in the MS4 annual reports. This document may address some or all of the following:
  - Seek to integrate and maximize the public benefit of water quality priorities.
  - Support efforts to obtain additional state and federal support to control cross-border discharges.

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- Be formatted to reach federal and state regulators, funding agency staff, elected officials, NGOs, and interested members of public.
- Demonstrate relative sediment and/or other pollutant contribution from Mexico and MS4s to the Tijuana River and estuary, keep focus on binational flows being a main source of sediment and pollutant loads, and avoid potential misperception that local MS4s also need to have a much higher level of pollutant control.
- With any additional Special Study budget, the group could also potentially sponsor additional clean-up and/or education and outreach events to support MS4 source reduction efforts. This could be in addition to or instead of the public-friendly watershed overview document.
- **Action item:** Consultant team to develop a scope and cost estimate for development of overview of watershed document.

**7. FY17 WQIP Annual Report**

The group discussed the FY17 WQIP Annual report development. There will be three drafts. A Jurisdictional Data request and schedule was distributed to the RAs. The first data submittal (strategy implementation table, photos and additional detail for strategies to highlight, dry weather outfall monitoring data sharing spreadsheet and lab EDDs, etc.) is due to Amec by September 19, 2017 to be included in first draft of the report.

**8. Jurisdictional updates**

- County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) could not attend this meeting, but will continue involvement in this group.
- Report Of Waste Discharge – Copermittees had a follow-up meeting with the San Diego Water Board on request modifications to the MS4 Permit. Copermittees are requesting reduced reporting efforts, and reduced/more adaptive monitoring. The Water Board is generally supportive of what the Copermittees' requests. Permit reissuance is planned for December 2018.
- Regional Bight Program – The stakeholder meeting will be held September 14th. The meeting will discuss regional priorities to develop how to prioritize funds. Typical special study program components include areas of special biological significance (ASBS), nutrients, regulatory drivers, bioaccumulation, sediment quality objectives, etc.
- **Action item:** Amec to attend meeting and provide an update to the group at next meeting.

**9. Other items (time permitting, no action will be taken)**

Update on action items from previous Watershed Group meeting

(Note that the status provided below is as of the date of the meeting)

- **Re: Approve minutes from previous meeting**

D-MAX will post meeting minutes on the Project Clean Water website.  *Completed*

- **Re: FY17 WQIP Annual Report:**

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Consultant team will identify strategies that jurisdictions may want to highlight (and provided photos and additional detail for) in the main body or executive summary of the annual report.  *In Progress*. Consultant team meeting with RAs to discuss strategies.

- **Re: Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team update**

SD will forward a copy of the draft H&H study to Deb Mosley at the County.   
*Completed*

The next meeting will be held on September 19, 2017 from 8:30am to 10:00 am at County Operations, 5510 Overland Avenue, 4th Floor Room 472.