

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team

Friday, June 26, 2009

10 a.m - Noon

City of San Diego, Environmental Services Department

9601 Ridgehaven Court, First Floor

San Diego, CA 92123

MEETING NOTES

1. The meeting began prior to 10 a.m. with all Action Teams in their breakout sessions actively working. Fifty-three people were in attendance, but introductions were delayed until the breakout sessions to avoid disrupting the work in progress.
2. Action Teams Report Out
 - a. Border Action Team.
 - i. In attendance were: Tony Heinrichs, Rachel Gregg, Ed Othmer, Dan Murphy, Chris Peregrine, Grant Destache, Dan Murphy, Sara Miles, and Bryn Evans (partial list)
 - ii. Co-Chair Tony Heinrichs reports that the team is working with the California Integrated Waste Management Board on the installation of the Goat Canyon Trash Nets. Installation is due in September. CIWMB provided the \$250,000 grant and Scott Walker is the contact.
 - iii. Ed Othmer of URS reported his team has been looking at areas from the main channel to the Disney Bridge. Under contract with the City they are trying to identify possible locations for trash capture devices in Smugglers Gulch and Goat Canyon and a sediment basin for Smugglers Gulch. A scoping meet is scheduled for Monday morning, June 29.
 - iv. Biological surveys will be done in sensitive areas.
 - v. The team also took the lead on the NOAA grant and is assisting with a \$200,000 Water Resources Board/EPA grant that might be available.
 - vi. A key question to be answered is how trash will be removed.
 - b. Cleanup Action Team.
 - i. In attendance were: Mike McCann, Cid Tesoro, Tracy Cline, Larry Duke, Christina Buchanan, Rober Scott, Kris McFadden, Christopher Peregrin, Karen Bane, and Anna Aljabry, Mike McCann, Roberta Cronquist, Kelly Keniston, Ana Eguiarte, Tanya (last name not recorded) and John Anderson (partial list).
 - ii. Co-Chair Cid Tesoro reported that the data from the characterization study is being put into GIS and we will want to make it available to the public. This will likely be done on the River Team web site. Ten test pits/borings will be done to find out what's underground.
 - iii. A \$700,000 grant from the State Water Resources Control Board is being used to finish the studies and begin the cleanup effort.
 - iv. Coordination with the Border Action Team will be needed to have trash moved to a common transfer station or seek other solutions.
 - v. The Army Corps of Engineers needs a sponsor to move forward with funding for planning work in the valley. A meeting with the County and the Army Corps is planned for the following week.
 - vi. When the new Tijuana Estuary cleanup season begins there will be a cultural resources person on the team.

- c. Restoration Action Team.
 - i. In attendance were: Jeff Crooks, Michelle Woo, Amy Campbell, Betty Grizzle, Brian Collins, and Pat Gower. (partial list).
 - ii. Co-Chair Jeff Crooks reported discussions about what the structure or format for developing the vision for the valley would look like. Questions include how the groundwater issue will be addressed, what policies on mitigation should be for each agency involved. How can they be developed so mitigation is looked at as an opportunity? San Diego Bay was discussed as an example of how “out-of-kind” mitigation could be used (i.e. mitigating for loss of abundant deep water habitat with scarce salt marsh habitat). Discussion about early involvement with regulatory agencies was also discussed.

- d. Binational Action Team.
 - i. In attendance were: Oscar Romo, Ben McCue, Doug Liden, and Sigfrido Pineda Popoca and several other Mexican government officials who are part of the Recovery Team (partial list).
 - ii. Co-Chair Oscar Romo reported that the Colegio de la Frontera North with the City of Tijuana is working on a trash characterization study thanks to a \$45,000 Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC) Grant. The study is in response to the work of the Recovery Team and URS.
 - iii. INPLAN, the City of Tijuana’s Institute of Planning, is studying the concept of developing conservation easements.
 - iv. Trash nets are being studied in Los Laureles Canyon by the City of Tijuana’s Urban Development Department.
 - v. Another grant proposal to the BECC for \$100,000 has been developed between NOAA/UCSD/Tijuana Estuary National Research Reserve. The grant would fund a tire tracking study. Letters of support would be appreciated.
 - vi. On June 17, Recovery Team members Ben McCue, Bart Christiansen, and Oscar Romo reported on the team’s work at the Border 2012 Water Committee meeting in Mexicali.
 - vii. Senate Bill 167 by Senator Denise Ducheny is out of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and on to the Appropriations Committee. The legislation deals with waste tires across the border and allows the expenditure of funding south of the border to recycle tires.
 - viii. Doug Liden from the EPA reported that the grant won by SWIA at the end of the year has been released for funding. It is a three-year project that includes actions on both sides of the border, including revegetation, installation of 6,000 pervious pavers, 6,000 linear feet of rip-rap and coastal bluff protection.
 - ix. Oscar also made an outstanding PowerPoint presentation about the Binational Action Team’s efforts, including outstanding photographs illustrating the issues on the Tijuana side of the border and the efforts being made in Tijuana.

- e. Policy Committee
 - i. John Robertus and Carl Nettleton reported on Policy Committee actions.
 - 1. A presentation was made at the Governor’s California/Mexico Border Relations Council on April 14, 2009.
 - 2. Another presentation was made at the Good Neighbors Environmental Board on June 11, 2009.
 - 3. While in attendance at the California Baja California Water and Enforcement Task Force a brief review of Recovery Team

activities was made on June 18, 2009.

4. The \$9.5 million NOAA Grant submission is expected to be announced some time in July.
3. Next meeting. The next quarterly workshop will be held on Friday, September 25, at 10 a.m. The next Policy Committee will be held on Friday, August 28, also at 10 a.m.
4. Adjourn