

# Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team

## A Fact Sheet

- What is it?** A collaboration of more than 30 federal, state, and local U.S. and Mexican agencies organized into four action teams and working together to implement a recovery plan for the Tijuana River Valley under the overall guidance of a policy committee.
- Vision:** A Tijuana River Valley free of historical trash and sediment, protected from future deposits of trash and sediment, restored to a sustained physical, chemical and biological integrity, and performing its hydrologic functions, while respecting the rights of current and future landowners and users.
- Mission:** To bring together the government administrative, regulatory, and funding agencies in tandem with advice from the scientific community, the environmental community, and affected stakeholders to protect the Tijuana River Valley from future accumulations of trash and sediment, identify, remove, recycle or dispose of existing trash and sediment, and restore the Tijuana River floodplain to a balanced wetland ecosystem.

### POLICY COMMITTEE

- Mission:** To provide guidance, coordination and administrative support for the four action teams.
- Co-Chairs:** John Robertus, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Carl Nettleton, OpenOceans Global.

### BORDER ACTION TEAM

- Mission:** To develop and implement solutions in the immediate vicinity of the border that will capture and divert trash and sediment before it reaches the Tijuana River Valley.
- Co-Chairs:** Tony Heinrichs, City of San Diego  
Steve Smullen, International Boundary and Water Commission

### CLEANUP ACTION TEAM

- Mission:** To identify, map, characterize and cleanup trash and manage sediment in the Tijuana River Valley floodplain in an environmentally sensitive way.
- Co-Chairs:** Cid Tesoro, County of San Diego  
Michael McCann, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

### RESTORATION ACTION TEAM

- Mission:** To imagine, plan, coordinate and implement the restoration, mitigation, and flood control features of the Tijuana River Valley ecosystem from the border to the ocean.
- Co-Chairs:** Jeff Crooks, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Clay Phillips, California State Parks

### BINATIONAL ACTION TEAM

- Mission:** To identify the sources of trash and sediment in the Tijuana River Valley watershed that impact the Tijuana River Valley floodplain and to recommend, establish, and implement a plan to abate and manage these sources in cooperation with Mexican agencies.
- Co-Chairs:** Oscar Romo, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration  
Nicholas Surjan, California Environmental Protection Agency