

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team

TEAM UPDATE

January 21, 2009

Happy New Year to all members of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team. We hope you like the new name for our collaboration Its a lot easier to say than the "Trash/Sediment Working Group!" We are sending out this message to keep you up-to-date with the status of our work together and to let you know how we are planning to approach the New Year.

1. **POLICY COMMITTEE TO MEET.** The Policy Committee will be meeting on January 30 to lay out the framework for how we organize ourselves in 2009. The committee consists of the four action team chairs and their co-chairs. Border Action Team: Tony Heinrichs (City of San Diego) and Steve Smullens (IBWC). Cleanup Action Team: Cid Tesoro (County of San Diego) and Mike McCann (Regional Water Quality Control Board). Restoration Action Team: Jeff Crooks (Tijuana National Estuary Research Reserve) and Clay Phillips (State Parks). Bi-National Action Team: Oscar Romo (NOAA) and Nicholas Surjan (CalEPA Office of the Secretary, Binational Division). John Robertus and Carl Nettleton are also on the Policy Committee. *Please see the attached roster to confirm your contact data.*
2. **MEETINGS TO BE SCHEDULED SOON.** Following the Policy Committee meeting on January 30 we intend to call the next meeting of the Recovery Team as a whole and to provide a calendar of meetings for the year that we hope will work for everybody to the degree possible. If there are specific days and times of the month that don't work for your calendars, please let your primary committee chair know.
3. **INPUT ON THE RECOVERY TEAM PROCESS.** If you have any input you want to give, please send your thoughts directly to the chair of your committee(s).
4. **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.** You are welcome to be part of multiple committees, but we would like to be able to confirm your primary committee. Please confirm your primary committee and other committees you would like to be on by checking the attached rosters. Thanks!
5. **FUNDING SUCCESSES.**
 - a. **SWIA EPA GRANT.** On the funding front, you are likely aware of the \$990,898 EPA West Coast Estuaries Initiative grant that SWIA received to conduct on-the-ground watershed improvements in the Tijuana River Watershed in both the U.S. and Mexico. That funding is very complementary to what the Recovery Team intends to do and is exemplary of how funding obtained by any of our participating organizations can be creatively woven into the fabric of our work without having the money coming directly to the Recovery Team collaboration.
 - b. **INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD GRANT PENDING.** We have also received news that the Integrated Waste Management Board today approved a \$250,000 grant to install a trash capture and removal system as part of the solid waste, tire and sediment collection system located in Goat Canyon. Team member Scott Walker has reported the news to most of you.
 - c. **STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD REQUEST.** Work is also underway on a request to obtain \$700,000 from the State Water Resources Control Board Cleanup and Abatement Fund for the Cleanup Action Team.
6. **BRIEFING FOR THE SAN DIEGO REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD.** As you will remember, on December 10, John Robertus and the committee chairs made a presentation to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board which was well received by Chairman Wright and the board.
7. **BRIEFING FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS.** John Robertus, in his role as Executive Officer of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, provided a briefing for staff of many of the region's federal, state and local officials on January 14 at the Tijuana Estuary Information Center. This briefing was well-received, too.

As always, thanks for your work and participation. Please keep coming back!

John Robertus, Co-Chair
Carl Nettleton, Co-Chair