

*U.S. INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
CITIZENS FORUM – SAN DIEGO/TIJUANA REGION*

June 9, 2017

Commissioner Edward Drusina  
International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section  
4171 North Mesa, Suite C100  
El Paso, Texas 79902-1441

Commissioner Roberto Salmon  
Comision Interncional de Limites y Aguas, Seccion Mexicana  
Ave. Universidad # 2180  
Zona el Chamizal  
Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua  
CP 32310

Subject: Continuing Public Concerns Regarding Transboundary Sewage

Dear Commissioner Salmon and Commissioner Drusina:


I again respectfully write to you on behalf of the members of the USIBWC Citizens Forum Board for the San Diego-Tijuana area. As you may be aware, our last two meetings (March 2 and June 1, 2017) have featured overflowing crowds of interested members of the public, a number of elected officials or their representatives and, of course, extensive media coverage. There is continuing public outrage at the ongoing flows of wastewater across the border and into the Tijuana River Estuary, damaging that delicate habitat, and into the ocean, which forces our south coast beaches to be closed due to health hazards more in recent months than ever before.

As your Citizens Forum board, it is our duty to report these public concerns to you, as well as the extremely high degrees of dissatisfaction on the part of literally every South County citizen with awareness of these sewage flows, with the performance of IBWC. What we witnessed at our last two Citizens Forum meetings was just the tip of the iceberg. We, as your appointed Forum Board members, are taking the brunt of this public outrage every day, not just at our meetings, but because we live in the impacted communities and interact frequently with our various publics. People are calling for ACTION by IBWC and its governmental colleagues on both sides of the border and for the quick adoption of specific short term and long term remedies to stop or intercept the flow of cross border wastewater.

These calls for action to the Commission, in our view and with respect, should be met with real action and leadership by the Commission. Without your demonstrated leadership within each government's structure and real action to solve the infrastructure, waste management, and managerial problems that cause these flows of pollution that are injurious to residents, habitats, wildlife, recreation and tourism on both sides of the border, your Citizens Forum board is powerless to explain, much less defend, the work of the Commission in the San Diego/Tijuana/Imperial Beach area.

We therefore respectfully request of each of you that you give *this* problem in *this* region your highest priority and that you actively and continuously pursue the support of both governments until this problem is solved once and for all.

Sincerely,



Ed Spriggs  
Co-Chair

USIBWC Citizens Forum  
Councilmember, City of Imperial Beach