



Media Release

San Diego Water Board to Host Binational Summit on Tijuana River Valley Restoration

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SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board announced today that a June 4 Binational Summit to be hosted by the regional board will focus on a five-year plan to restore the Tijuana River Valley with a goal of conserving the Valley’s unique natural resources.

The summit will involve environmental leaders from both Mexico and the United States working together in a collaborative environment.

Appointed and elected officials from both sides of the Tijuana-San Diego border are charged with the management of sanitary waste, trash and sediment in the Tijuana River Valley. The five-year plan is a next step to plan for future restoration activities.

“We are excited to host our conservation partners from Tijuana, and we look forward to strengthening our ability to collaborate on binational projects to reduce pollution from waste water, sediment, and trash,” said David Gibson, executive officer for the San Diego Regional Board.

The principal objective of the Binational Summit will be for elected officials and agency leaders from both sides of the border to provide input on the 1) update of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy; 2) draft a Five-Year Action Plan; and 3) draft a Cooperation Agreement between the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Teams in Mexico and the United States.

The mission of the Recovery Team is to bring together the governmental, administrative, regulatory, and funding agencies, 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, as well as identify, remove, recycle or dispose of existing trash and sediment, and restore the Tijuana River floodplain to a balanced wetland ecosystem.

To find more information about the Recovery Team visit <http://trvrt.org/>. More information on the Binational Summit can be found [here](#).



“The San Diego Regional Water Board has moved over recent years to a collegial and cooperative relationship with all cities, counties, and water districts in our region and in Mexico as a critical part of the path forward to healthy waters,” said San Diego Water Board Chairman Henry Abarbanel.

The task of protecting and enforcing the many uses of water, including the needs of industry, agriculture, municipal districts, and the environment is an ongoing challenge for the San Diego Regional Water Board. Part of the regional board’s mission statement is developing and enforcing water quality objectives and implementing plans that will best protect the area's waters while recognizing our local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology, Abarbanel said.

The San Diego Regional Board is comprised of seven part-time members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The San Diego Board's "basin plan" encompasses our hydrologic areas, issuing waste discharge requirements, enforcement action against violators, and monitoring water quality.

To find more information on the San Diego Regional Water Board [visit](#).

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