



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION
SAN DIEGO FIELD OFFICE

January 15, 2015

David Gibson
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108-2700

Dear Mr. Gibson,

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team was established in 2009 and crafted the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* to guide a collaborative, binational, partnership approach to managing the many issues affecting the water, habitat, homes, businesses, and recreational enjoyment of the Tijuana River Valley and watershed in Mexico and the United States.

The Recovery Team vision is:

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 interests of current and future landowners and users.

The Recovery Team mission is:

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 work in collaboration 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.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States Section (USIBWC), recognizes the efforts put forth by Mexican Agencies in terms of new policies, funding, and infrastructure built in support of the Recovery Strategy.

The achievement of the vision and mission of the Recovery Strategy require the continuation of the ongoing collaboration and communication between the communities and agencies in Mexico and the United States. Partnerships within the River Valley and watershed are essential to reduce

sources of sediment and trash on both sides of the border, manage and protect the rivers, streams, reservoirs, and estuary of the Tijuana River watershed, and enhance and protect our communities.

The USIBWC recognizes and encourages the participation on the Recovery Team of additional stakeholders that may consist of regulatory agencies, funding agencies, other public agencies, representatives of the environmental community, the scientific community, and other stakeholders, including private landowners and users.

The USIBWC will work together with other Recovery Team members to develop and implement a Five-Year Action Plan with project descriptions that may include tasks, deliverables, resources needed, a schedule for achieving project milestones, and processes for monitoring progress.

For a period of five years from the effective date of this document, the USIBWC will continue to support the partnership and work of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and to implement the Recovery Strategy within the responsibilities, jurisdictions, and legal mandates of our organization, subject to availability of funding and other resources and will continue to build partnerships throughout the Tijuana River watershed to further efforts to reduce and manage sources of sediment, trash, other wastes, and flooding.

The USIBWC understands that the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) will continue to hold in abeyance its legal and regulatory options relevant to addressing trash and sediment issues in the United States while the Recovery Team implements priority projects identified in the Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* and Five-Year Action Plan. The USIBWC further understands that with the agreement and support of the Recovery Team members, the San Diego Water Board will seek financial support for the efforts of the Recovery Team to help fund the process and priority projects.

Nothing in this letter may or shall be construed to obligate the USIBWC to any current or future expenditure of funds.

The USIBWC hereby supports and endorses the partnership and efforts of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and the Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* and agree in principle to coordinate, cooperate and communicate in our efforts to achieve the recovery of a healthy watershed, river, estuary, and ocean waters.

Sincerely,



Steven Smullen
Area Operations Manager
USIBWC, San Diego Field Office



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., *Governor*
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, *Director*

Item 7
Supporting Document No. 5
March 16, 2015



February 27, 2015

Mr. David Gibson
Executive Officer
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
2375 Northside Dr., Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108-2700
dgibson@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team

Dear Mr. Gibson:

The Tijuana River watershed is shared by Mexico and the United States and features some of the highest quality waters, lands, and habitats in the region. While the Tijuana River Valley has experienced decades of water quality impairments, hard work by both Mexico and the United States has brought significant improvements in wastewater treatment and improved water quality on both sides of the border. Nonetheless, storm water flows continue to bring substantial amounts of sediment and trash and other contaminants into the River Valley from sources in both the United States and Mexico. Sediment and trash pollutants cause water quality impairments and degrade valuable riparian and estuarine habitats.

The Tijuana River Watershed straddles the international border between the United States and Mexico and the Tijuana River flows through highly urbanized areas in Mexico before entering into the Tijuana River Estuary and the Pacific Ocean through San Diego County of the United States. The Tijuana River Estuary is the largest functioning wetland in Southern California, providing habitat for at least six endangered species and many threatened species of wildlife and vegetation. It is an exceptionally rich and invaluable natural resource and is designated as one of only 25 wetlands of international importance. The lower six miles of the Tijuana River and the Tijuana River Estuary are impacted by sedimentation, trash, flooding, as well as numerous other pollutants originating from sources in both the United States and Mexico. As a result of these pollutants, many water quality objectives are not attained in the Tijuana River Valley and near shore waters off Imperial Beach and Playas de Tijuana, impairing many beneficial uses associated with protection of human health and conservation of healthy ecosystems of those waters.

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team was established in 2009 and crafted the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water to guide a collaborative, binational, partnership approach to managing the many issues affecting the water, habitat, homes, businesses, and recreational enjoyment of the Tijuana River Valley and watershed in Mexico and the United States.

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

David Gibson
February 27, 2015
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The South Coast Region of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) serves as a member of both the Recovery Team and the team's Steering Committee. For a period of five years from the date of this letter, the Department intends to continue to participate in the partnership of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team within the responsibility, jurisdiction, and legal mandates of the Department; participate in meetings and discussions, and contribute expertise, data, and information, subject to availability of funding, staffing, and other resources. Nothing in this letter may or shall be construed to obligate the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to any current or future expenditure of funds. Nor may or shall anything in this letter be construed to provide any regulatory assurances on behalf of the Department. Any and all projects proposed by the Recovery Team remain subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and to the permitting requirements of the Department.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Recovery Team. Questions regarding this letter and further coordination on these issues should be directed to Gail Sevens at (858-467-4212) or via email at gail.sevens@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Edmund Pert
Regional Manager
South Coast Region



Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association, TRVEA

2191 Hollister Street, San Diego, CA 92154
Charitable Corporation #1550287 EIN 56-2619246 www.trvea.org

February 27, 2015

RE: TRVRT Commitment Letter
Tijuana River Valley Recover Team
Commitment to the 2012 Recovery Strategy

Preamble

The Tijuana River watershed is shared by Mexico and the United States and features, in some areas, some of the highest quality waters, lands, and habitats in the region. It supports homes and businesses located in Tijuana, Tecate, Imperial Beach, and San Diego. Its lands support farms, recreation, habitat, and commerce important to communities in both Mexico and the United States.

While the Tijuana River Valley has experienced decades of water quality impairments, hard work by both Mexico and the United States has brought significant improvements in wastewater treatment and improved water quality on both sides of the border. Nonetheless, storm water flows continue to bring substantial amounts of sediment and trash and other contaminants into the River Valley from sources in both the United States and Mexico. Sediment and trash pollutants cause water quality impairments, threaten life and property from flooding, degrade valuable riparian and estuarine habitats, and impact recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Many public agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have worked tirelessly on both sides of the border to resolve the River Valley's water quality issues. They have hosted cleanups, built sediment basins, tested trash capture devices, experimented and demonstrated reuse of plastics and tires, completed ecosystem restoration activities, acquired lands, and performed many other projects. Coordination among the many government agencies and NGOs across multiple jurisdictions remains an ever-present challenge that we must surmount to realize long-lasting protection, restoration, and enhancement of our communities and the River Valley itself.

Crafted at a community level in 2012, the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy (Recovery Strategy – Attachment A) represents the work of representatives from agencies, groups, and citizens to reach consensus on actions to resolve sediment and trash issues using a collaborative, bi-national, stakeholder-led approach. The Recovery Strategy has also been further reviewed and shaped by thoughtful comments from stakeholders who live in, work in, and/or regularly visit the River Valley. These individuals collectively represent the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team).

The purpose of the Recovery Strategy is twofold. First, it is intended to be a concise summary of the first phase of actions to clean up the River Valley and restore its beneficial uses. Second, it is intended to outline the steps in a way that will allow stakeholders, policy makers, and concerned organizations and citizens to have a clear understanding of both the problems and the bi-national solutions that will allow the Recovery Team to achieve its vision and mission.

Whereas, we the undersigned are in agreement that:

The Tijuana River Watershed straddles the international border between the United States and Mexico and the Tijuana River flows through highly urbanized areas in Mexico before entering into the Tijuana Estuary and the Pacific Ocean through San Diego County of the United States.

The Tijuana River Estuary is the largest functioning wetland in Southern California, providing habitat for at least six endangered species and many threatened species of wildlife and vegetation. It is an exceptionally rich and invaluable natural resource and is designated as one of only 19 U.S. wetlands of international importance.

The lower six miles of the Tijuana River and the Tijuana River Estuary are impacted by sedimentation, trash, flooding, as well as by numerous other pollutants originating from sources in both the United States and Mexico.

As a result of these pollutants, many water quality objectives are not attained in the Tijuana River Valley and near shore waters off Imperial Beach and Playas de Tijuana, impairing many beneficial uses associated with protection of human health and conservation of healthy ecosystems of those waters.

A partnership approach among many parties in Mexico and the United States is critical to attaining significant improvements in wastewater related issues in the River Valley.

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team was established in 2009 and crafted the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* to guide a collaborative, bi-national, partnership approach to managing the many issues affecting the water, habitat, homes, businesses, and recreational enjoyment of the Tijuana River Valley and watershed in Mexico and the United States.

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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 work in collaboration 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.

The Regional Board and the Recovery Team recognizes the efforts put forth by Mexican Agencies in terms of new policies, funding, and infrastructure built in support of the Recovery Strategy.

The achievement of the vision and mission of the Recovery Strategy require the continuation of the ongoing collaboration and communication between the communities and agencies in Mexico and the United States. Our partnerships within the River Valley and watershed are essential to reduce sources of sediment and trash on both sides of the border, manage and protect the rivers, streams, reservoirs, and estuary of the Tijuana River watershed, and enhance and protect our communities.

The signatory members recognize and encourage the participation on the Recovery Team of additional stakeholders that may consist of regulatory agencies, funding agencies, other public agencies, representatives of the environmental community, the scientific community, and other stakeholders, including private landowners and users.

The Recovery Team will work together on developing and implementing a Five-Year Action Plan with project descriptions that may include tasks, deliverables, resources needed, a schedule for achieving project milestones, and processes for monitoring progress. Since these are all variables that can change over the course of a project, the Five-Year Action Plan should be updated regularly.

For a period of five years from the effective date of this document, we the undersigned will continue to support the partnership and work of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and to implement the Recovery Strategy within the responsibilities, jurisdictions, and legal mandates of our organization, subject to availability of funding and other resources and will continue to build partnerships throughout the Tijuana River watershed to further efforts to reduce and manage the sources of sediment, trash, other wastes, and flooding.

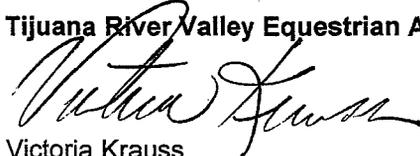
The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) also agrees to continue to hold in abeyance its legal and regulatory options relevant to addressing trash and sediment issues in the United States while the Recovery Team implements priority projects identified in the Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* and Five-Year Action Plan.

With the agreement and support of the signatories, the San Diego Water Board will seek financial support for the efforts of the Recovery Team to help fund the process and priority projects.

This commitment letter will become effective on the date that the last signatory agency signs the letter. Nothing in this letter may or shall be construed to obligate any signatory to any current or future expenditure of funds.

We the undersigned hereby support and endorse the partnership and efforts of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and the Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* and agree in principle to coordinate, cooperate and communicate in our efforts to achieve the recovery of a healthy watershed, River, Estuary, and Ocean waters:

Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association, TRVEA: Board of Directors 2015



Victoria Krauss
President



Richard (Dick) Tynan
Director, Trails



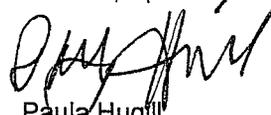
John Gabaldon
Vice President



Mary Christensen
Director, Special Events



Mary Johnson Powell
Executive Secretary



Paula Huggill
Director, Gymkhana



Barbara Pompo
Treasurer



William (Bill) Huggill
Director, Membership

VK:mj



Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

“A Wetland of International Importance” *International Ramsar Convention, 2005*

301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932
Office (619) 575 3613 x.333
jcrooks@tnerr.org

27 February 2015

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team
Commitment to the 2012 Recovery Strategy

Preamble

The Tijuana River watershed is shared by Mexico and the United States and features, in some areas, some of the highest quality waters, lands, and habitats in the region. It supports homes and businesses located in Tijuana, Tecate, Imperial Beach, and San Diego. Its lands support farms, recreation, habitat, and commerce important to communities in both Mexico and the United States.

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Many public agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have worked tirelessly on both sides of the border to resolve the River Valley's water quality issues. They have hosted cleanups, built sediment basins, tested trash capture devices, experimented and demonstrated reuse of plastics and tires, completed ecosystem restoration activities, acquired lands, and performed many other projects. Coordination among the many government agencies and NGOs across multiple jurisdictions remains an ever present challenge that we must surmount to realize long-lasting protection, restoration, and enhancement of our communities and the River Valley itself.

Crafted at a community level in 2012, the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy (Recovery Strategy – Attachment A) represents the work of representatives from agencies, groups, and citizens to reach consensus on actions to resolve sediment and trash issues using a collaborative, binational, stakeholder-led approach. The Recovery Strategy has also been further reviewed and shaped by thoughtful comments from stakeholders who live, work, and/or regularly visit the River Valley. These individuals collectively represent the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team).

The purpose of the Recovery Strategy is twofold. First, it is intended to be a concise summary of the first phase of actions to clean up the River Valley and restore its beneficial uses. Second, it is intended to outline the steps in a way that will allow stakeholders, policy makers, and concerned organizations and citizens to have a clear understanding of both the problems and the binational solutions that will allow the Recovery Team to achieve its vision and mission.

Whereas, we the undersigned are in agreement that:

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

The Tijuana River Watershed straddles the international border between the United States and Mexico and the Tijuana River flows through highly urbanized areas in Mexico before entering into the Tijuana Estuary and the Pacific Ocean through San Diego County of the United States.

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As a result of these pollutants, many water quality objectives are not attained in the Tijuana River Valley and near shore waters off Imperial Beach and Playas de Tijuana, impairing many beneficial uses associated with protection of human health and conservation of healthy ecosystems of those waters.

A partnership approach among many parties in Mexico and the United States is critical to attaining significant improvements in wastewater related issues in the River Valley.

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team was established in 2009 and crafted the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water to guide a collaborative, binational, partnership approach to managing the many issues affecting the water, habitat, homes, businesses, and recreational enjoyment of the Tijuana River Valley and watershed in Mexico and the United States.

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The Regional Board and the Recovery Team recognizes the efforts put forth by Mexican Agencies in terms of new policies, funding, and infrastructure built in support of the Recovery Strategy.

The achievement of the vision and mission of the Recovery Strategy require the continuation of the ongoing collaboration and communication between the communities and agencies in Mexico and the United States. Our partnerships within the River Valley and watershed are essential to reduce sources of sediment and trash on both sides of the border, manage and protect the rivers, streams, reservoirs, and estuary of the Tijuana River watershed, and enhance and protect our communities.

Tijuana River
National Estuarine Research Reserve

The signatory members recognize and encourage the participation on the Recovery Team of additional stakeholders that may consist of regulatory agencies, funding agencies, other public agencies, representatives of the environmental community, the scientific community, and other stakeholders, including private landowners and users.

The Recovery Team will work together on developing and implementing a Five-Year Action Plan with project descriptions that may include tasks, deliverables, resources needed, a schedule for achieving project milestones, and processes for monitoring progress. Since these are all variables that can change over the course of a project, the Five-Year Action Plan should be updated regularly.

For a period of five years from the effective date of this document, we the undersigned will continue to support the partnership and work of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and to implement the Recovery Strategy within the responsibilities, jurisdictions, and legal mandates of our organizations, subject to availability of funding and other resources and will continue to build partnerships throughout the Tijuana River watershed to further efforts to reduce and manage sources of sediment, trash, other wastes, and flooding.

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) also agrees to continue to hold in abeyance its legal and regulatory options relevant to addressing trash and sediment issues in the United States while the Recovery Team implements priority projects identified in the Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water and Five-Year Action Plan.

With the agreement and support of the signatories below, the San Diego Water Board will seek financial support for the efforts of the Recovery Team to help fund the process and priority projects.

This commitment letter will become effective on the date that the last signatory agency signs the letter. Nothing in this letter may or shall be construed to obligate any signatory to any current or future expenditure of funds.

The Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve hereby supports and endorses the partnership and efforts of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and the Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water and agree in principle to coordinate, cooperate and communicate in our efforts to achieve the recovery of a healthy watershed, River, Estuary, and Ocean waters:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Crooks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Jeffrey Crooks
Research Coordinator & Lead Scientist, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., *Governor*
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, *Director*

Item 7
Supporting Document No. 5
March 16, 2015



February 27, 2015

Mr. David Gibson
Executive Officer
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
2375 Northside Dr., Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108-2700
dgibson@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team

Dear Mr. Gibson:

The Tijuana River watershed is shared by Mexico and the United States and features some of the highest quality waters, lands, and habitats in the region. While the Tijuana River Valley has experienced decades of water quality impairments, hard work by both Mexico and the United States has brought significant improvements in wastewater treatment and improved water quality on both sides of the border. Nonetheless, storm water flows continue to bring substantial amounts of sediment and trash and other contaminants into the River Valley from sources in both the United States and Mexico. Sediment and trash pollutants cause water quality impairments and degrade valuable riparian and estuarine habitats.

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Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

David Gibson
February 27, 2015
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We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Recovery Team. Questions regarding this letter and further coordination on these issues should be directed to Gail Sevrens at (858-467-4212) or via email at gail.sevrens@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Edmund Pert
Regional Manager
South Coast Region



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

February 25, 2015

via email to: dgibson@waterboards.ca.gov

Mr. David Gibson, Executive Officer
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108-2700

Subject: Commitment to the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team 2012 Recovery Strategy

Dear Mr Gibson:

The City of San Diego (City) supports the continued partnership with the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team) to implement the *Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water* (Recovery Strategy). In addition, the City supports the use of the Five-Year Action Plan to further efforts to reduce and manage sources of sediment, trash, other wastes, and flooding in the Tijuana River Valley. The Recovery Team's partnership approach successfully created a shared vision for the Tijuana River Valley with the stakeholder-driven development of the Recovery Strategy. Now that the Recovery Strategy's vision has been established, the Recovery Team must focus its efforts towards implementation.

The City recognizes the need for federal agency leadership to comprehensively and effectively implement the vision captured in the Recovery Strategy because of the bi-national nature of the flow of storm water and runoff contributing the vast majority of the trash and sediment in the Tijuana River Valley. Transnational source control and pollution prevention projects must be led by federal agencies with the authority and implementation mechanisms to work collaboratively in Mexico to address sediment and trash issues at the source. In addition, projects implemented in the U.S. to address flood risk, sediment and trash accumulation from upstream sources in Mexico must also be led by appropriate federal agencies.

The U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) has trans-border authority to address bi-national runoff, trash and sediment under various agreements. IBWC's mission, identified through various treaties, is to work with partners in Mexico (the Comisión Internacional de Límites y Agua, or CILA) to provide bi-national solutions to address sanitation, water quality, and flood control issues in the border region. The City supports the continued effective use of the Recovery Team as a platform for stakeholder involvement as part of future IBWC and other federal agency efforts to address bi-national flood risk, sediment and trash issues in the Tijuana River Valley. In addition the City supports the efforts of the IBWC/CILA

Transportation & Storm Water Department

9370 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 100, MS 1900 • San Diego, CA 92123

Hotline (619) 235-1000 Fax (858) 541-4350



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Mr. David Gibson
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to develop a new minute to the 1944 U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty to reduce the trans-border flow of trash, sediment, and wastewater in the Tijuana River Watershed.

In addition to IBWC leadership to address runoff, trash, and sediment originating in Mexico, the City recognizes that each of the Recovery Team member agencies must work within the limits of its jurisdiction and mission responsibilities. As such, the City will focus its efforts in three key areas.

1. *Address Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) discharges through the implementation of the Tijuana River Watershed Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP).* The City's MS4 system drains approximately 0.8% of the Tijuana River Watershed. Though this represents only a small percentage of the overall watershed, the City is working with its watershed partners to develop a WQIP for the Tijuana River Watershed to address pollutant discharges, including sediment, from the City's MS4.
2. *Reduce flood risk in the Tijuana River Valley predominantly caused by trash and sediment laden flows originating in Mexico by performing sediment removal in the Smuggler's Gulch and Pilot Channel areas.* Although much of this work is performed on land owned by the County of San Diego and is largely necessitated by flows originating in Mexico, the City will continue to perform channel maintenance activities in the Tijuana River Valley in accordance with environmental permitting requirements and contingent on available funding.
3. *Continue to participate in the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team to support efforts for federal agency leadership to comprehensively achieve the vision captured in the Recovery Strategy.* For a period of five years the City will continue to support the partnership and work of the Recovery Team to implement the Recovery Strategy within its jurisdiction, responsibilities, and legal mandates, subject to availability of funding and other resources.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the other members of the Recovery Team. If you have any questions, please contact the Transportation & Storm Water Department's Recovery Team representative David Wells, at 858-541-4339.

Sincerely,



Drew Kleis
Deputy Director

KM/dhw

cc: Denice Garcia, Director of Binational Relations, Office of the Mayor
Mike Hansen, Director of Land Use & Environmental Policy, Office of the Mayor
Kris McFadden, Transportation & Storm Water Department Director
David Wells, Project Officer II, Transportation & Storm Water Department

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Commitment to the 2012 Recovery Strategy

Preamble

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The Tijuana River Watershed straddles the international border between the United States and Mexico and the Tijuana River flows through highly urbanized areas in Mexico before entering into the Tijuana Estuary and the Pacific Ocean through San Diego County of the United States.

The Tijuana River Estuary is the largest functioning wetland in Southern California, providing habitat for at least six endangered species and many threatened species of wildlife and vegetation. It is an exceptionally rich and invaluable natural resource and is designated as one of only 19 U.S. wetlands of international importance.

The lower six miles of the Tijuana River and the Tijuana River Estuary are impacted by sedimentation, trash, flooding, as well as numerous other pollutants originating from sources in both the United States and Mexico.

As a result of these pollutants, many water quality objectives are not attained in the Tijuana River Valley and near shore waters off Imperial Beach and Playas de Tijuana, impairing many beneficial uses associated with protection of human health and conservation of healthy ecosystems of those waters.

A partnership approach among many parties in Mexico and the United States is critical to attaining significant improvements in wastewater related issues in the River Valley.

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team was established in 2009 and crafted the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* to guide a collaborative, binational, partnership approach to managing the many issues affecting the water, habitat, homes, businesses, and recreational enjoyment of the Tijuana River Valley and watershed in Mexico and the United States.

The Recovery Team vision is:

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 interests of current and future landowners and users.

The Recovery Team mission is:

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 work in collaboration 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.

The Regional Board and the Recovery Team recognizes the efforts put forth by Mexican Agencies in terms of new policies, funding, and infrastructure built in support of the Recovery Strategy.

The achievement of the vision and mission of the Recovery Strategy require the continuation of the ongoing collaboration and communication between the communities and agencies in Mexico and the United States. Our partnerships within the River Valley and watershed are essential to reduce sources of sediment and trash on both sides of the border, manage and protect the rivers, streams, reservoirs, and estuary of the Tijuana River watershed, and enhance and protect our communities.

The signatory members recognize and encourage the participation on the Recovery Team of additional stakeholders that may consist of regulatory agencies, funding agencies, other public agencies, representatives of the environmental community, the scientific community, and other stakeholders, including private landowners and users.

The Recovery Team will work together on developing and implementing a Five-Year Action Plan with project descriptions that may include tasks, deliverables, resources needed, a schedule for achieving project milestones, and processes for monitoring progress. Since these are all variables that can change over the course of a project, the Five-Year Action Plan should be updated regularly.

For a period of five years from the effective date of this document, we the undersigned will continue to support the partnership and work of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and to implement the Recovery Strategy within the responsibilities, jurisdictions, and legal mandates of our organizations, subject to availability of funding and other resources and will continue to build partnerships throughout the Tijuana River watershed to further efforts to reduce and manage sources of sediment, trash, other wastes, and flooding.

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) also agrees to continue to hold in abeyance its legal and regulatory options relevant to addressing trash and sediment issues in the United States while the Recovery Team implements priority projects identified in the Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* and Five-Year Action Plan.

With the agreement and support of the signatories below, the San Diego Water Board will seek financial support for the efforts of the Recovery Team to help fund the process and priority projects.

This commitment letter will become effective on the date that the last signatory agency signs the letter. Nothing in this letter may or shall be construed to obligate any signatory to any current or future expenditure of funds.

We the undersigned hereby support and endorse the partnership and efforts of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and the Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water and agree in principle to coordinate, cooperate and communicate in our efforts to achieve the recovery of a healthy watershed, River, Estuary, and Ocean waters:

City of San Diego

City of Imperial Beach

County of San Diego

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

California State Parks

California Coastal Conservancy

California Department of Fish and Game

International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve


U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Navy



County of San Diego

BRIAN ALBRIGHT
DIRECTOR
(858) 966-1301

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
5500 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 410, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
Administrative Office (858) 694-3030
www.sdparks.org

February 19, 2015

David Gibson, Executive Director
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108

Dear Mr. Gibson:

COMMITMENT TO THE 2012 RECOVERY STRATEGY

As one of the largest property owners in the Tijuana River Valley, the County of San Diego (County) is involved in the protection of this important ecosystem. The Tijuana River Valley is the largest functioning wetland in Southern California, providing habitat for at least six endangered species and many threatened species of wildlife and vegetation. It is an exceptionally rich and invaluable natural resource and is designated as one of only nineteen U.S. wetlands of international importance. In addition to being an important ecosystem in Southern California and the region, the valley offers a wide variety of recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities not only to San Diego, but to visitors from all over the world.

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team) was created in 2009 to address water quality and storm water flows that bring substantial amounts of sediment, trash and other contaminants into the river valley. The Recovery Team's mission to restore the Tijuana River Valley to a balanced wetland ecosystem aligns with the County of San Diego's vision to provide a County that is safe, healthy, and thriving. The County has several departments involved with implementing the County's vision within the valley; they include Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Environmental Health, Planning & Development Services, Agriculture Weights and Measures, Air Pollution Control District, Farm and Home Advisor, and Animal Services. Protecting water quality, habitat, recreational uses, and public safety are a few of the many goals that the County advocates within the Tijuana River Valley. As a member of the Recovery Team, the County of San Diego is happy to support the Recovery Team's mission.

As one of the largest land managers within the Tijuana River Valley, the County is committed to continued collaboration and participation with the Recovery Team. The County is supportive of further evaluating the Recovery Team's 5-Year Action Plan projects including the Nelson-Sloan study and the Brown Fill project. Although the County will not assume responsibility or

liability for all projects proposed on County lands, the County is committed to ensuring that projects are evaluated in a responsible and collaborative manner and will take reasonable steps to facilitate progress toward meeting the Recovery Team's goals. The County agrees to coordinate, participate and communicate on the Recovery Team's efforts to achieve the recovery of a healthy watershed, river, estuary, and ocean waters.

With the departure of Cid Tesoro, former County representative at the Recovery Team Steering Committee meetings, we are now appointing Christine Sloan, Department of Parks and Recreation Chief of Resource Management, to represent the County of San Diego. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact her at (858) 966-1370 or Christine.Sloan@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



BRIAN ALBRIGHT
Director

cc: Jim Bethke, Director, Farm and Home Advisor
Richard Crompton, Director, Public Works
Ha Dang, Director, Agriculture Weights and Measures
Dawn Danielson, Director, Animal Services
Robert Kard, Director, Air Pollution Control District
Liz Pozzebon, Director, Environmental Health
Mark Wardlaw, Director, Planning & Development Services
Michael de la Rosa, Policy Advisor, District 1



February 18, 2015

David Gibson, Executive Officer
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Commitment to the 2012 Recovery Strategy

Preamble

The Tijuana River watershed is shared by Mexico and the United States and features, in some areas, some of the highest quality waters, lands, and habitats in the region. It supports homes and businesses located in Tijuana, Tecate, Imperial Beach, and San Diego. Its lands support farms, recreation, habitat, and commerce important to communities in both Mexico and the United States.

While the Tijuana River Valley has experienced decades of water quality impairments, hard work by both Mexico and the United States has brought significant improvements in wastewater treatment and improved water quality on both sides of the border. Nonetheless, storm water flows continue to bring substantial amounts of sediment and trash and other contaminants into the River Valley from sources in both the United States and Mexico. Sediment and trash pollutants cause water quality impairments, threaten life and property from flooding, degrade valuable riparian and estuarine habitats, and impact recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Many public agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have worked tirelessly on both sides of the border to resolve the River Valley's water quality issues. They have hosted cleanups, built sediment basins, tested trash capture devices, experimented and demonstrated reuse of plastics and tires, completed ecosystem restoration activities, acquired lands, and performed many other projects. Coordination among the many government agencies and NGOs across multiple jurisdictions remains an ever present challenge that we must surmount to realize long-lasting protection, restoration, and enhancement of our communities and the River Valley itself.

Crafted at a community level in 2012, the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy (Recovery Strategy – Attachment A) represents the work of representatives from agencies, groups, and citizens to reach consensus on actions to resolve sediment and trash issues using a collaborative, binational, stakeholder-led approach. The Recovery Strategy has also been further reviewed and shaped by thoughtful comments from stakeholders who live, work, and/or regularly visit the River Valley. These individuals collectively represent the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team).

The purpose of the Recovery Strategy is twofold. First, it is intended to be a concise summary of the first phase of actions to clean up the River Valley and restore its beneficial uses. Second, it is intended to outline the steps in a way that will allow stakeholders, policy makers, and concerned organizations and citizens to have a clear understanding of both the problems and the binational solutions that will allow the Recovery Team to achieve its vision and mission.

Whereas, we the undersigned are in agreement that:

The Tijuana River Watershed straddles the international border between the United States and Mexico and the Tijuana River flows through highly urbanized areas in Mexico before entering into the Tijuana Estuary and the Pacific Ocean through San Diego County of the United States.

The Tijuana River Estuary is the largest functioning wetland in Southern California, providing habitat for at least six endangered species and many threatened species of wildlife and vegetation. It is an exceptionally rich and invaluable natural resource and is designated as one of only 19 U.S. wetlands of international importance.

The lower six miles of the Tijuana River and the Tijuana River Estuary are impacted by sedimentation, trash, flooding, as well as numerous other pollutants originating from sources in both the United States and Mexico.

As a result of these pollutants, many water quality objectives are not attained in the Tijuana River Valley and near shore waters off Imperial Beach and Playas de Tijuana, impairing many beneficial uses associated with protection of human health and conservation of healthy ecosystems of those waters.

A partnership approach among many parties in Mexico and the United States is critical to attaining significant improvements in wastewater related issues in the River Valley.

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team was established in 2009 and crafted the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* to guide a collaborative, binational, partnership approach to managing the many issues affecting the water, habitat, homes, businesses, and recreational enjoyment of the Tijuana River Valley and watershed in Mexico and the United States.

The Recovery Team vision is:

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 interests of current and future landowners and users.

The Recovery Team mission is:

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 work in collaboration 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.

The Regional Board and the Recovery Team recognizes the efforts put forth by Mexican Agencies in terms of new policies, funding, and infrastructure built in support of the Recovery Strategy.

The achievement of the vision and mission of the Recovery Strategy require the continuation of the ongoing collaboration and communication between the communities and agencies in Mexico and the United States. Our partnerships within the River Valley and watershed are essential to reduce sources of sediment and trash on both sides of the border, manage and protect the rivers, streams, reservoirs, and estuary of the Tijuana River watershed, and enhance and protect our communities.

The signatory members recognize and encourage the participation on the Recovery Team of additional stakeholders that may consist of regulatory agencies, funding agencies, other public agencies, representatives of the environmental community, the scientific community, and other stakeholders, including private landowners and users.

The Recovery Team will work together on developing and implementing a Five-Year Action Plan with project descriptions that may include tasks, deliverables, resources needed, a schedule for achieving project milestones, and processes for monitoring progress. Since these are all variables that can change over the course of a project, the Five-Year Action Plan should be updated regularly.

For a period of five years from the effective date of this document, we the undersigned will continue to support the partnership and work of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and to implement the Recovery Strategy within the responsibilities, jurisdictions, and legal mandates of our organizations, subject to availability of funding and other resources and will continue to build partnerships throughout the Tijuana River watershed to further efforts to reduce and manage sources of sediment, trash, other wastes, and flooding.

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) also agrees to continue to hold in abeyance its legal and regulatory options relevant to addressing trash and sediment issues in the United States while the Recovery Team implements priority projects identified in the Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* and Five-Year Action Plan.

With the agreement and support of the signatories below, the San Diego Water Board will seek financial support for the efforts of the Recovery Team to help fund the process and priority projects.

This commitment letter will become effective on the date that the last signatory agency signs the letter. Nothing in this letter may or shall be construed to obligate any signatory to any current or future expenditure of funds.

We the undersigned hereby support and endorse the partnership and efforts of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and the Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* and agree in principle to coordinate, cooperate and communicate in our efforts to achieve the recovery of a healthy watershed, River, Estuary, and Ocean waters:

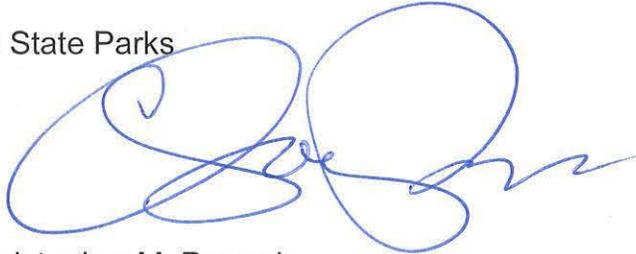
City of San Diego

City of Imperial Beach

County of San Diego

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

California State Parks

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Peregrin', with a large circular flourish at the end.

Christopher M. Peregrin
Senior Environmental Scientist
Manager, Tijuana Estuary Sector
San Diego Coast District, CA State Parks

California Coastal Conservancy

California Department of Fish and Game

International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Navy

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Commitment to the 2012 Recovery Strategy

Preamble

The Tijuana River watershed is shared by Mexico and the United States and features, in some areas, some of the highest quality waters, lands, and habitats in the region. It supports homes and businesses located in Tijuana, Tecate, Imperial Beach, and San Diego. Its lands support farms, recreation, habitat, and commerce important to communities in both Mexico and the United States.

While the Tijuana River Valley has experienced decades of water quality impairments, hard work by both Mexico and the United States has brought significant improvements in wastewater treatment and improved water quality on both sides of the border. Nonetheless, storm water flows continue to bring substantial amounts of sediment and trash and other contaminants into the River Valley from sources in both the United States and Mexico. Sediment and trash pollutants cause water quality impairments, threaten life and property from flooding, degrade valuable riparian and estuarine habitats, and impact recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Many public agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have worked tirelessly on both sides of the border to resolve the River Valley's water quality issues. They have hosted cleanups, built sediment basins, tested trash capture devices, experimented and demonstrated reuse of plastics and tires, completed ecosystem restoration activities, acquired lands, and performed many other projects. Coordination among the many government agencies and NGOs across multiple jurisdictions remains an ever present challenge that we must surmount to realize long-lasting protection, restoration, and enhancement of our communities and the River Valley itself.

Crafted at a community level in 2012, the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy (Recovery Strategy – Attachment A) represents the work of representatives from agencies, groups, and citizens to reach consensus on actions to resolve sediment and trash issues using a collaborative, binational, stakeholder-led approach. The Recovery Strategy has also been further reviewed and shaped by thoughtful comments from stakeholders who live, work, and/or regularly visit the River Valley. These individuals collectively represent the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team).

The purpose of the Recovery Strategy is twofold. First, it is intended to be a concise summary of the first phase of actions to clean up the River Valley and restore its beneficial uses. Second, it is intended to outline the steps in a way that will allow stakeholders, policy makers, and concerned organizations and citizens to have a clear understanding of both the problems and the binational solutions that will allow the Recovery Team to achieve its vision and mission.

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The Tijuana River Watershed straddles the international border between the United States and Mexico and the Tijuana River flows through highly urbanized areas in Mexico before entering into the Tijuana Estuary and the Pacific Ocean through San Diego County of the United States.

The Tijuana River Estuary is the largest functioning wetland in Southern California, providing habitat for at least six endangered species and many threatened species of wildlife and vegetation. It is an exceptionally rich and invaluable natural resource and is designated as one of only 19 U.S. wetlands of international importance.

The lower six miles of the Tijuana River and the Tijuana River Estuary are impacted by sedimentation, trash, flooding, as well as numerous other pollutants originating from sources in both the United States and Mexico.

As a result of these pollutants, many water quality objectives are not attained in the Tijuana River Valley and near shore waters off Imperial Beach and Playas de Tijuana, impairing many beneficial uses associated with protection of human health and conservation of healthy ecosystems of those waters.

A partnership approach among many parties in Mexico and the United States is critical to attaining significant improvements in wastewater related issues in the River Valley.

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team was established in 2009 and crafted the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* to guide a collaborative, binational, partnership approach to managing the many issues affecting the water, habitat, homes, businesses, and recreational enjoyment of the Tijuana River Valley and watershed in Mexico and the United States.

The Recovery Team vision is:

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 interests of current and future landowners and users.

The Recovery Team mission is:

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 work in collaboration 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.

The Regional Board and the Recovery Team recognizes the efforts put forth by Mexican Agencies in terms of new policies, funding, and infrastructure built in support of the Recovery Strategy.

The achievement of the vision and mission of the Recovery Strategy require the continuation of the ongoing collaboration and communication between the communities and agencies in Mexico and the United States. Our partnerships within the River Valley and watershed are essential to reduce sources of sediment and trash on both sides of the border, manage and protect the rivers, streams, reservoirs, and estuary of the Tijuana River watershed, and enhance and protect our communities.

The signatory members recognize and encourage the participation on the Recovery Team of additional stakeholders that may consist of regulatory agencies, funding agencies, other public agencies, representatives of the environmental community, the scientific community, and other stakeholders, including private landowners and users.

The Recovery Team will work together on developing and implementing a Five-Year Action Plan with project descriptions that may include tasks, deliverables, resources needed, a schedule for achieving project milestones, and processes for monitoring progress. Since these are all variables that can change over the course of a project, the Five-Year Action Plan should be updated regularly.

For a period of five years from the effective date of this document, we the undersigned will continue to support the partnership and work of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and to implement the Recovery Strategy within the responsibilities, jurisdictions, and legal mandates of our organizations, subject to availability of funding and other resources and will continue to build partnerships throughout the Tijuana River watershed to further efforts to reduce and manage sources of sediment, trash, other wastes, and flooding.

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) also agrees to continue to hold in abeyance its legal and regulatory options relevant to addressing trash and sediment issues in the United States while the Recovery Team implements priority projects identified in the Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* and Five-Year Action Plan.

With the agreement and support of the signatories below, the San Diego Water Board will seek financial support for the efforts of the Recovery Team to help fund the process and priority projects.

This commitment letter will become effective on the date that the last signatory agency signs the letter. Nothing in this letter may or shall be construed to obligate any signatory to any current or future expenditure of funds.

We the undersigned hereby support and endorse the partnership and efforts of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and the Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water and agree in principle to coordinate, cooperate and communicate in our efforts to achieve the recovery of a healthy watershed, River, Estuary, and Ocean waters:

City of San Diego

City of Imperial Beach

County of San Diego

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

California State Parks

California Coastal Conservancy

California Department of Fish and Game

International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Navy



City of Imperial Beach, California

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

825 Imperial Beach Blvd., Imperial Beach, CA 91932 Tel: (619) 423-8303 Fax: (619) 628-1395

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Commitment to the 2012 Recovery Strategy

The City of Imperial Beach hereby support and endorse the partnership and efforts of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and the Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water and agree in principle to coordinate, cooperate and communicate in our efforts to achieve the recovery of a healthy watershed, River, Estuary, and Ocean waters.

Andy Hall, City Manager
City of Imperial Beach

Date: 1-22-15

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Commitment to the 2012 Recovery Strategy

Preamble

The Tijuana River watershed is shared by Mexico and the United States and features, in some areas, some of the highest quality waters, lands, and habitats in the region. It supports homes and businesses located in Tijuana, Tecate, Imperial Beach, and San Diego. Its lands support farms, recreation, habitat, and commerce important to communities in both Mexico and the United States.

While the Tijuana River Valley has experienced decades of water quality impairments, hard work by both Mexico and the United States has brought significant improvements in wastewater treatment and improved water quality on both sides of the border. Nonetheless, storm water flows continue to bring substantial amounts of sediment and trash and other contaminants into the River Valley from sources in both the United States and Mexico. Sediment and trash pollutants cause water quality impairments, threaten life and property from flooding, degrade valuable riparian and estuarine habitats, and impact recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Many public agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have worked tirelessly on both sides of the border to resolve the River Valley's water quality issues. They have hosted cleanups, built sediment basins, tested trash capture devices, experimented and demonstrated reuse of plastics and tires, completed ecosystem restoration activities, acquired lands, and performed many other projects. Coordination among the many government agencies and NGOs across multiple jurisdictions remains an ever present challenge that we must surmount to realize long-lasting protection, restoration, and enhancement of our communities and the River Valley itself.

Crafted at a community level in 2012, the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy (Recovery Strategy – Attachment A) represents the work of representatives from agencies, groups, and citizens to reach consensus on actions to resolve sediment and trash issues using a collaborative, binational, stakeholder-led approach. The Recovery Strategy has also been further reviewed and shaped by thoughtful comments from stakeholders who live, work, and/or regularly visit the River Valley. These individuals collectively represent the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team).

The purpose of the Recovery Strategy is twofold. First, it is intended to be a concise summary of the first phase of actions to clean up the River Valley and restore its beneficial uses. Second, it is intended to outline the steps in a way that will allow stakeholders, policy makers, and concerned organizations and citizens to have a clear understanding of both the problems and the binational solutions that will allow the Recovery Team to achieve its vision and mission.

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A partnership approach among many parties in Mexico and the United States is critical to attaining significant improvements in wastewater related issues in the River Valley.

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team was established in 2009 and crafted the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* to guide a collaborative, binational, partnership approach to managing the many issues affecting the water, habitat, homes, businesses, and recreational enjoyment of the Tijuana River Valley and watershed in Mexico and the United States.

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The Regional Board and the Recovery Team recognizes the efforts put forth by Mexican Agencies in terms of new policies, funding, and infrastructure built in support of the Recovery Strategy.

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The signatory members recognize and encourage the participation on the Recovery Team of additional stakeholders that may consist of regulatory agencies, funding agencies, other public agencies, representatives of the environmental community, the scientific community, and other stakeholders, including private landowners and users.

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The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) also agrees to continue to hold in abeyance its legal and regulatory options relevant to addressing trash and sediment issues in the United States while the Recovery Team implements priority projects identified in the Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* and Five-Year Action Plan.

With the agreement and support of the signatories below, the San Diego Water Board will seek financial support for the efforts of the Recovery Team to help fund the process and priority projects.

This commitment letter will become effective on the date that the last signatory agency signs the letter. Nothing in this letter may or shall be construed to obligate any signatory to any current or future expenditure of funds.

We the undersigned hereby support and endorse the partnership and efforts of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and the Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water and agree in principle to coordinate, cooperate and communicate in our efforts to achieve the recovery of a healthy watershed, River, Estuary, and Ocean waters:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary Plopper", on a light blue rectangular background.

Zachary Plopper, Coastal and Marine Director
WILDCOAST



David Gibson, Executive Officer
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108-2700

Sent via email to: dgibson@waterboards.ca.gov

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Commitment to the 2012 Recovery Strategy

The San Diego County Water Authority hereby supports and endorses the partnership and efforts of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and the Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water, as described in the following commitment letter. The Water Authority agrees in principle to coordinate, cooperate and communicate in our efforts to achieve the recovery of a healthy watershed, river, estuary, and ocean waters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Weinberg", written over a horizontal line.

Ken Weinberg, Water Resources Director

March 5, 2015

Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Commitment to the 2012 Recovery Strategy

Preamble

The Tijuana River watershed is shared by Mexico and the United States and features, in some areas, some of the highest quality waters, lands, and habitats in the region. It supports homes and businesses located in Tijuana, Tecate, Imperial Beach and San Diego. Its lands support farms, recreation, habitat, and commerce important to communities in both Mexico and the United States.

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The Tijuana River Watershed straddles the international border between the United States and Mexico and the Tijuana River flows through highly urbanized areas in Mexico before entering into the Tijuana Estuary and the Pacific Ocean through San Diego County of the United States.

The Tijuana River Estuary is the largest functioning wetland in Southern California, providing habitat for at least six endangered species and many threatened species of wildlife and vegetation. It is an exceptionally rich and invaluable natural resource and is designated as one of only 19 U.S. wetlands of international importance.

The lower six miles of the Tijuana River and the Tijuana River Estuary are impacted by sedimentation, trash, flooding, as well as numerous other pollutants originating from sources in both the United States and Mexico.

As a result of these pollutants, many water quality objectives are not attained in the Tijuana River Valley and near shore waters off Imperial Beach and Playas de Tijuana, impairing many beneficial uses associated with protection of human health and conservation of healthy ecosystems of those waters.

A partnership approach among many parties in Mexico and the United States is critical to attaining significant improvements in wastewater related issues in the River Valley.

The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team was established in 2009 and crafted the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* to guide a collaborative, binational, partnership approach to managing the many issues affecting the water, habitat, homes, businesses, and recreational enjoyment of the Tijuana River Valley and watershed in Mexico and the United States.

The Recovery Team vision is:

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 interests of current and future landowners and users.

The Recovery Team mission is:

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 work in collaboration 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.

The Regional Board and the Recovery Team recognizes the efforts put forth by Mexican Agencies in terms of new policies, funding, and infrastructure built in support of the Recovery Strategy.

The achievement of the vision and mission of the Recovery Strategy require the continuation of the ongoing collaboration and communication between the communities and agencies in Mexico and the United States. Our partnerships within the River Valley and watershed are essential to

reduce sources of sediment and trash on both sides of the border, manage and protect the rivers, streams, reservoirs, and estuary of the Tijuana River watershed, and enhance and protect our communities.

The signatory members recognize and encourage the participation on the Recovery Team of additional stakeholders that may consist of regulatory agencies, funding agencies, other public agencies, representatives of the environmental community, the scientific community, and other stakeholders, including private landowners and users.

The Recovery Team will work together on developing and implementing a Five-Year Action Plan with project descriptions that may include the tasks, deliverables, and resources needed, a schedule for achieving project milestones, and processes for monitoring progress. Since these are all variables that can change over the course of a project, the Five-Year Action Plan should be updated regularly.

For a period of five years from the effective date of this document, we the undersigned will continue to support the partnership and work of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and to implement the Recovery Strategy within the responsibilities, jurisdictions, and legal mandates of our organizations, subject to availability of funding and other resources and will continue to build partnerships throughout the Tijuana River watershed to further efforts to reduce and manage sources of sediment, trash, other wastes, and flooding.

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) also agrees to continue to hold in abeyance its legal and regulatory options relevant to addressing trash and sediment issues in the United States while the Recovery Team implements priority projects identified in the Recovery Strategy: *Living with the Water* and Five-Year Action Plan.

With the agreement and support of the signatories to this commitment letter, the San Diego Water Board will seek financial support for the efforts of the Recovery Team to help fund the process and priority projects.

This commitment letter will become effective on the date that the last signatory agency signs the letter. Nothing in this letter may or shall be construed to obligate any signatory to any current or future expenditure of funds.