

# Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team

## A New Approach to an Old Problem

Border 2012 California-Baja California Water Task Force

March 11, 2009

# The Problem . . .



Photo credit: WildCoast



Photo credit: WildCoast



Photo credit: WildCoast

# The Problem . . .



Photo credit: WildCoast



Photo credit: WildCoast



Photo credit: Nettleton Strategies

# The Problem . . .



Photo credit: Nettleton Strategies



Photo credit: Nettleton Strategies



Photo credit: Nettleton Strategies

How long has the problem existed?

More than 70 years . . .

# Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team

What is it?

A collaboration of more than 20 federal, state, and local 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.

# Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team

## **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.

# The Premises . . .

- If we can stop new trash and unwanted sediment before it reaches the valley,
  - Then we can successfully cleanup the valley,
- If we successfully cleanup the valley,
  - Then we can successfully restore its hydrology and natural values
- If we can restore its hydrology
  - Then we can successfully address the remaining water quality issues

# The Solutions

- Stopping trash . . .
  - Mechanical trash solutions
  - Abating the trash at the source
- Stopping unwanted sediment
  - Sediment basins
- Assessing the locations and amount of trash and unwanted sediment
  - Study underway
- Removing trash and unwanted sediment
  - The biggest challenge

# An Overview of the Work



Red = Trash Interceptors

Tan = Sedimentation Basins

Green = Cleanup and Recovery

Placement is only for conceptual purposes and to develop discussion about the concept.

# How We Are Organized

- Four Action Teams
  - Border Action Team
  - Cleanup Action Team
  - Restoration Action Team
  - Binational Action Team
- Guided by a Policy Committee
  - Chairs and co-chairs of the action teams
  - John Robertus, SDRWQCB
  - Carl Nettleton, Nettleton Strategies

# 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

# 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, Nettleton Strategies

# Organizations Involved . . .

## FEDERAL AGENCIES (7)

- US Border Patrol
- International Boundary and Water Commission
- US Navy
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Tijuana River Natural Estuarine Research Reserve

## STATE AGENCIES (5)

- State Water Resources Control Board
- California Integrated Waste Management Board
- California State Parks
- San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Bi-National Affairs

## LOCAL/REGIONAL AGENCIES (10)

- SANDAG
- SCCWRP
- County of San Diego, Flood Control
- County of San Diego, Parks Department
- City of San Diego, Storm Water Department
- City of San Diego, Local Enforcement Agency
- San Diego County Water Authority
- City of Imperial Beach
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- San Diego State University

## CITIZEN GROUPS (2)

- WildCoast
- Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association

# Some Successes to Date

- We've come together!
- \$100,000 characterization study to determine locations and volume of trash and sediment (California Integrated Waste Management Board) **CLEANUP ACTION TEAM**
- \$250,000 grant to SWIA to implement and operate trash nets in Goat Canyon (California Integrated Waste Management Board) **BORDER ACTION TEAM**
- Discussions have been ongoing with Tijuana officials regarding opportunities for cooperation **BINATIONAL ACTION TEAM**

# What's Next

- Application for \$700,000 Cleanup Grant from State Water Resources Board (**Cleanup Action Team**)
- Application for Multi-million NOAA Grant (**Multiple Action Teams**)
- Researching additional funding opportunities (**Policy Committee**)
- Continuing to recognize that together we can accomplish more . . . (**Multiple Action Teams**)

# www.tjriverteam.org

<a href="#">HOME PAGE</a>	<a href="#">THE ACTION TEAMS</a>	<a href="#">RESOURCES</a>	<a href="#">PHOTO GALLERIES</a>
<a href="#">IN THE MEDIA</a>	<a href="#">MEETINGS</a>	<a href="#">FORUM</a>	<a href="#">CONTACT US</a>

## Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team

A collaboration of more than 20 federal, state, and local agencies organized to implement recovery of the Tijuana River Valley.



### Home Page

#### Our 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.

#### Our 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.

# Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team

## A New Approach to an Old Problem

Border 2012 California-Baja California Water Task Force

March 11, 2009

Presentation prepared by Nettleton Strategies