

**DESCRIPTION**

The Tijuana River drains a watershed of 1,735 square miles, 78% of which is behind dams. Two-thirds of the watershed lies in Mexico, but the beginning and endpoints of the river are in the U.S. The watershed flows into the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The Estuary is one of the few intact wetlands in Southern California, and among the most biologically productive systems on earth. It consists of 2,500 acres ranging from sand dunes to coastal sage scrub, including riparian habitat, mudflat/tidal channels, salt marsh, salt panne, brackish-freshwater marsh, transition habitat, and upland habitat. It is home to more than 370 species of birds, with at least six threatened or endangered, and several endangered plant species.

The estuary receives raw sewage, excessive sedimentation, trash, bacterial, viral and chemical pollution from the watershed. Rapid and continued development in the watershed threatens the reserve and the abundant plant and animal life.



Tijuana River Estuary  
(Photo courtesy State Water Resources Control Board).

For more photos, visit the California Coastal Records Project:  
[www.californiacoastline.org](http://www.californiacoastline.org).

**REASON FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION**

The Tijuana River Estuary is a 2002 303(d)-listed **impaired waterbody that flows into a Marine Protected Area** (Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve).

**POLLUTED RUNOFF CONDITIONS**

Selected Coastal Zone Waterbodies	Top 5 Runoff Pollutants of Concern					Efforts to Address Pollutants (See next page)
	2002 303(d)-Listed Pollutants TMDL Priority (& Proposed Completion if available)					
	<u>Bacteria Indicators</u>	<u>Eutrophic &amp; Low Dissolved Oxygen</u>	<u>Metals (Lead, Nickel, Thallium)</u>	<u>Pesticides</u>	<u>Trash</u>	
Tijuana River Estuary ▲	▲ Low	▲ Low	▲ Low	▲ Low	▲ Low	
Tijuana River ■	■ Low	■ Low		■ Low & <u>Synthetic Organics</u> Low	■ Low & <u>Solids</u> Low	
Smugglers Gulch ●						
Goat Canyon ◆						
Other Waterbodies □						
Potential Sources of Pollutants in Coastal Waterbodies						
<b>Urban Areas</b>						a, d, h, i, k, l
➤ Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers		▲				
<b>Marinas &amp; Boating</b>						
<b>Hydromodification</b>						c
<b>Wetlands &amp; Riparian Areas</b>						b, c, e, f, g, j, k, l, m
<b>Unspecified Nonpoint Source</b>	▲ ■	▲ ■	▲	▲ ■	▲ ■	

## Tijuana River Estuary CCA

### MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT NPS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

<b>a)</b>	<b>Tijuana Watershed International Reserve Project</b>			<a href="http://www.projectcleanwater.org/html/ws_tijuana.html">http://www.projectcleanwater.org/html/ws_tijuana.html</a>
	Project Clean Water	Fred Cagle	(619) 297-0931	
	➤ Project initiated in July 2000 to provide a broad and inclusive forum for exploring water quality issues of regional significance.			
<b>b)</b>	<b>Tijuana River Valley Invasive Plant Control Program</b>			<a href="http://www.projectcleanwater.org/pdf/prop50/54%20-%20TJ%20invasive.pdf">http://www.projectcleanwater.org/pdf/prop50/54%20-%20TJ%20invasive.pdf</a>
	Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association	Mayda Winter	(619) 575-0550	<a href="mailto:swiaprojects@aol.com">swiaprojects@aol.com</a>
	➤ Project will control exotic plants on 1,684 acres of prime estuarine and riparian habitats in the Tijuana River Valley, including treatment, re-vegetation, and monitoring, and will implement a stakeholder-developed management plan.			
<b>c)</b>	<b>Tijuana River Watershed Invasive Species Removal Project</b>			<a href="http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds">http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds</a>
	County of San Diego Department of Public Works, Watershed Protection Program		(858) 694-2212	<a href="mailto:watersheds@sdcounty.ca.gov">watersheds@sdcounty.ca.gov</a>
	➤ Proposal to remove approximately 360 acres of invasive plant species in Cottonwood Creek; revegetation to restore the watercourse with native vegetation; water quality monitoring upstream and downstream.			
<b>d)</b>	<b>Tijuana Watershed Projects</b>			<a href="http://www.projectcleanwater.org/html/ws_tijuana_project.html">http://www.projectcleanwater.org/html/ws_tijuana_project.html</a>
	Project Clean Water	Fred Cagle	(619) 297-0931	
	➤ Watershed monitoring, education, conservation, and research projects.			
<b>e)</b>	<b>Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program</b>			<a href="http://www.tijuanaestuary.com/etrp.asp">http://www.tijuanaestuary.com/etrp.asp</a>
	Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (on behalf of State Parks and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)	Mayda Winter Clay Phillips Slader Buck	(619) 575-0550 (619) 575-3615 (760) 930-0168	<a href="mailto:swiaprojects@aol.com">swiaprojects@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:cphillip@parks.ca.gov">cphillip@parks.ca.gov</a> <a href="mailto:slader_buck@fws.gov">slader_buck@fws.gov</a>
	➤ Feasibility and design studies are underway for a second phase of salt marsh restoration in the south arm of the Tijuana Estuary, base upon the Conceptual Plan for the Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program (1992).			
<b>f)</b>	<b>Coastal Training Program</b>			<a href="http://www.tijuanaestuary.com/education.asp">http://www.tijuanaestuary.com/education.asp</a>
	Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve	Oscar Romo Ken Ghalambor	(619) 575-3613	<a href="mailto:oromo@tijuanaestuary.org">oromo@tijuanaestuary.org</a> <a href="mailto:kghalambor@tijuanaestuary.org">kghalambor@tijuanaestuary.org</a>
	➤ Implemented the Coastal Training Program in an effort to provide accurate science-based information for those individuals and organizations whose daily decisions affect the health of our coastal region.			
<b>g)</b>	<b>Goat Canyon Sediment Management</b>			<a href="http://www.tijuanaestuary.com/etrp.asp">http://www.tijuanaestuary.com/etrp.asp</a>
	California Dept. Parks and Recreation	Suzy LaHitte Clay Phillips	(619) 220-5411 (619) 575-3615	<a href="mailto:slahitte@parks.ca.gov">slahitte@parks.ca.gov</a> <a href="mailto:cphillip@parks.ca.gov">cphillip@parks.ca.gov</a>
	➤ In addition to off-stream basins, the project includes access improvements, extensive habitat mitigation and archaeological preservation activities.			
<b>h)</b>	<b>Los Laureles Canyon Project</b>			<a href="http://www.icfdn.org/initiatives/llc/llc.htm">http://www.icfdn.org/initiatives/llc/llc.htm</a>
	International Community Foundation	Anne McEnany	(858) 677-2915	<a href="mailto:Anne@icfdn.org">Anne@icfdn.org</a>
	➤ The project assesses the feasibility of and development of designs for an erosion control and stormwater management program in Laureles Canyon, Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico.			

## Tijuana River Estuary CCA

<b>i)</b>	<b>Tijuana River Watershed Border 2012 Water Task Force</b>	<a href="http://trw.sdsu.edu/English/Projects/Task_Force/Portal/English/Home_Page/English_Home_Page.htm">http://trw.sdsu.edu/English/Projects/Task_Force/Portal/English/Home_Page/English_Home_Page.htm</a>		
	Elsa Saxod	(619) 533-3466	<a href="mailto:esaxod@sandiego.gov">esaxod@sandiego.gov</a>	
➤ Participates in development of a binational vision, or ideal state, for the Tijuana River Watershed and helps to devise strategies for implementing that vision on the ground to meet the goals and objectives of Border 2012.				
<b>j)</b>	<b>Tijuana River Valley Habitat and Trails Program</b>			
	San Diego County Parks; and State Coastal Conservancy (SCC)	Mary Niez & Mary Small (SCC)	(858) 694-3030 (510) 286-4181	<a href="mailto:msmall@scc.ca.gov">msmall@scc.ca.gov</a>
➤ Preparation of baseline studies, plans, site design and engineering, environmental review, and related pre-construction activities for a habitat restoration and trails program in Tijuana Valley Regional Park.				
<b>k)</b>	<b>Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County</b>	<a href="http://www.rcdsandiego.org/index.html">http://www.rcdsandiego.org/index.html</a>		
		(760) 745-2061	<a href="mailto:inquiries@rcdsandiego.org">inquiries@rcdsandiego.org</a>	
➤ Provides technical, financial, and educational assistance to help communities conserve and restore natural resources, including farm, range, open space, urban development, wildlife, recreation, watershed, water quality and woodland.				
<b>l)</b>	<b>San Diego Stream Team Citizen Monitoring Group</b>	<a href="http://www.sdstreamteam.org/">http://www.sdstreamteam.org/</a>		
	Rob Roy	(619) 540-8598	<a href="mailto:sdstreamteam@yahoo.com">sdstreamteam@yahoo.com</a>	
➤ Citizen monitors analyze water quality throughout San Diego County through assessment of aquatic insects and chemical testing.				
<b>m)</b>	<b>Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project</b>	<a href="http://www.scwrp.org/">http://www.scwrp.org/</a>		
	Mary Small	(510) 286-4181	<a href="mailto:msmall@scc.ca.gov">msmall@scc.ca.gov</a>	
➤ Broad-based partnership, chaired by the Resources Agency and supported by the State Coastal Conservancy, that has public agencies, non-profits, scientists, and local communities working cooperatively to acquire and restore rivers, streams, and wetlands in coastal southern California.				

### REGULATORY/PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

➤ City of Imperial Beach, Public Works Dept.	<a href="http://www.ci.imperial-beach.ca.us/UWURMP.htm">http://www.ci.imperial-beach.ca.us/UWURMP.htm</a>		(619) 423-8311	<a href="mailto:ibpworks@cityofib.org">ibpworks@cityofib.org</a>
➤ City of San Diego, Environmental Services Dept.	<a href="http://www.sannet.gov/environmental-services/">http://www.sannet.gov/environmental-services/</a>		(858) 694-7000	<a href="mailto:trash@sandiego.gov">trash@sandiego.gov</a>
➤ San Diego County, Public Works Dept., Watershed Protection	<a href="http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/stormwater.html">http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/stormwater.html</a>		(858) 694-2212	<a href="mailto:watersheds@sdcounty.ca.gov">watersheds@sdcounty.ca.gov</a>
➤ Calif. Coastal Commission, Water Quality Unit	<a href="http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html">http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html</a>	Tracy Duffey	(805) 585-1809	<a href="mailto:tduffey@coastal.ca.gov">tduffey@coastal.ca.gov</a>
➤ San Diego Regional Water Control Board	<a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/">http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/</a>	Bruce Posthumus	(858) 467-2964	<a href="mailto:bposthumus@waterboards.ca.gov">bposthumus@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
➤ State Water Resources Control Board, State Water Quality Protection Areas	<a href="http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/plnspols/oplans/asbs.html">http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/plnspols/oplans/asbs.html</a>	Connie Anderson	(916) 341-5280	<a href="mailto:csanderson@waterboards.ca.gov">csanderson@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
➤ California Coastal Conservancy	<a href="http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/">http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/</a>	Mary Small	(510) 286-4181	<a href="mailto:msmall@scc.ca.gov">msmall@scc.ca.gov</a>
➤ Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Marine Region	<a href="http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/">http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/</a>	John Ugoretz	(831) 649-2893	<a href="mailto:jugoretz@dfg.ca.gov">jugoretz@dfg.ca.gov</a>

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➤ Calif. State Parks, San Diego Coast District	<a href="http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=664">http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=664</a>	Clay Phillips	(619) 575-3615	<a href="mailto:cphillip@parks.ca.gov">cphillip@parks.ca.gov</a>
➤ Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve	<a href="http://nerrs.noaa.gov/TijuanaRiver/welcome.html">http://nerrs.noaa.gov/TijuanaRiver/welcome.html</a>	Oscar Romo	(619) 575-3613	<a href="mailto:oromo@tijuanaestuary.org">oromo@tijuanaestuary.org</a>
➤ US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/pacific/sandiegorefuges/Tijuana.htm">http://www.fws.gov/pacific/sandiegorefuges/Tijuana.htm</a>	Slader Buck	(760) 930-0168	<a href="mailto:Slader_buck@fws.gov">Slader_buck@fws.gov</a>