

AGENDA

Tijuana River Inter-Agency Consultation Group (IACG)

July 29, 2020

MS Teams Videoconference: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PDT)

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Call-in number: 1-628-246-1294

Conference ID: 357 190 751#

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 10:00 | EPA Opening Remarks |
| 10:10 | Introductions |
| 10:30 | IACG Role and Charge |
| 10:50 | Project Evaluation and Selection Process |
| 11:30 | Short Term Impact Projects |
| 11:45 | Summary of Action Items and Next Steps |
| 11:55 | EPA Closing Remarks |
| 12:00 | Adjourn |

USMCA Inter-agency Consultation Group Meeting July 29, 2020



Inter-Agency Consultation Group

Role and Charge

- **Informs the Project Evaluation and Selection Process**
 - Technical
 - Policy
 - Resource needs
 - Short- and long-term considerations & implementation gaps
- **Engagement Timeline**
 - Through end of project selection process (Spring 2021)
 - Convened around key milestones and decision points
 - May continue past Spring 2021 if appropriate
- **Meeting Cadence**
 - 2-3 hours in duration
 - Anticipate virtual meetings until public health context evolves

Key Milestones & Decision Points

- Public Engagement
- Short-term Impact Projects
- Project Ranking Criteria
- Project assessment and feasibility analysis
 - includes initial environmental impact assessment
- Development and Ranking of Project Alternatives
- NEPA process
- Long term implementation considerations
 - O&M, project sponsors, policy development needs, etc

Public Engagement

- Public Engagement Meetings
 - Anticipate regular updates
 - Opportunity for Input and Q&A
- Input from IACG
 - Frequency and cadence of public meetings?
 - After each IACG meeting
 - Quarterly
 - After key project development milestones

Project Evaluation and Selection Process

- 1) Analyze Potential Projects
- 2) Develop and Assess Alternatives
 - Combinations of projects
- 3) Select Preferred Alternative
- 4) NEPA Compliance
 - Environmental impact statement

Analyze Projects - Expedited Process

- Build on Previous Studies
 - Tijuana River Diversion Study
 - Senate Bill (SB) 507 Needs & Opportunities Assessment
 - CONAGUA Priority Projects
- Conduct Environmental and Technical Studies in Parallel
- EPA Contractor

Range of Projects to Be Assessed

- New TJ River diversion & treatment in U.S.
- Expand existing TJ River diversion in Mexico and treat in U.S.
- Expand SBIWTP sewage treatment capacity to reduce U.S. Impacts (via TJ River and Surf Discharge)
- Wastewater reuse in Mexico and at SBIWTP
- Infrastructure in U.S. to capture & remove trash and sediment
- Others

Analyze Projects - Environmental

- NEPA Public Scoping
- Assess Environmental Impacts and Benefits
 - Informal consultations with technical experts
 - Conduct studies and surveys

Analyze Projects – Technical

- Assess Project Feasibility
 - Consult with technical experts
 - Compile baseline information
 - Prepare technical memoranda

Evaluation Criteria

Key Evaluation Criteria

- Effectiveness in reducing beach advisories & impacts on border patrol and Navy SEAL operations
- Environmental benefits & public health protection
- Source and type of pollution
- Time-frame to Construct
- O&M, engineering and regulatory feasibility, leveraging

Input from IACG

Alternatives Analysis

- Identify Project Combinations
 - Integrate environmental and technical feasibility information
 - Comprehensive solution
- Assess Alternatives
 - Apply criteria
 - Prepare decision matrix
 - Prepare environmental information document

Alternatives Analysis Process

Alternative Selection

- Select Preferred Alternative
 - IACG input
 - Administrator decision

NEPA Compliance

- Options to complete NEPA process (EIS/ROD)
 - EPA
 - Project sponsor
- Environmental information document will speed preparation of DEIS
 - Saves 6-12 months

Short Term Impact Projects

- Planning longer term projects takes time
- Current on-the ground problems are urgent
- We want action now
- Actively looking for actions to take within next year to make progress while longer term project priorities identified
- Keys to short term viability:
 - Ready actor/sponsor/lead
 - Clear plan of action for the project or short path to get there
 - Clear path to fund if funding needed

Short-Term Impact Possibilities

Reviewing these possibilities now:

- Reduce Transboundary Flows:
 - Treat more sewage or river flow at the SBIWTP now
 - Repair damaged collection system infrastructure in Tijuana
 - Reduce river flows through upstream diversions/reuse

- Address Canyon Trash/Sediment Issues
 - Potential trash and sediment control in Smugglers Gulch

- Improve the Science and Knowledge of Current Conditions
 - Modeling work with Scripps
 - Targeted monitoring

- What are your ideas?

QUESTIONS
&
COMMENTS
