



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
May 25, 2010

JUNE 7 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL CENTRO, CA TO DISCUSS EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE IN U.S. AND MEXICAN IRRIGATION DISTRICTS AND NEW RIVER WATER QUALITY

Earthquake impacts to the region's irrigation infrastructure and the results of water quality studies of the New River will be presented at the next public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum (CRCF). The meeting will take place Monday, June 7, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (PDT/MST) at the Imperial Irrigation District Board Room, 1285 Broadway in El Centro, California. The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) established the CRCF in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities and related issues in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California.

The CRCF will hear about how the 7.2 magnitude earthquake on April 4 has affected the irrigation infrastructure in the region. Mike Campbell, Chief Administrative Officer of the Imperial Irrigation District, will discuss the impacts in Imperial County, including damage to the All-American Canal siphon at the New River. Engineer Carlos Robles Van Dyck with Mexico's National Water Commission (Conagua) will give a presentation about damage to infrastructure in Irrigation District 014, which includes the Mexicali and San Luis Valleys. The quake caused damage to canals, drains, and water systems for communities located in the south and southwestern parts of Irrigation District 014, covering an area of more than 150,000 acres. He will also discuss emergency measures undertaken to respond to the disaster.

Ongoing water quality sampling of the New River near the international boundary will be discussed by Carlos Peña, USIBWC Principal Engineer, and Jose Angel, Assistant Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 7. Pollution in the river, which flows north from Mexico into the United States, has been an ongoing problem. Recent

infrastructure improvements in Mexico have improved water quality but certain types of contamination remain a concern.

In a related matter, staff from the Office of Congressman Bob Filner will give an update on the Congressman's New River Project, a proposal to improve conditions along the New River in Calexico, California.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact the USIBWC's Yuma Office at 928-782-1598 or Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener at 915-832-4175 or via e-mail at: sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

For more information:

Sally Spener
915-832-4175
sally.spener@ibwc.gov

COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Monday, June 7, 2010
4:00 - 6:00 P.M. PDT/MST
Imperial Irrigation District Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Earthquake Damage to the Imperial Irrigation District – Mike Campbell, Chief Administrative Officer, Imperial Irrigation District
- Earthquake Damage to Infrastructure in Irrigation District 014 (Mexico) – Carlos Robles Van Dyck, Engineer, Mexico’s National Water Commission (Conagua)
- Congressman Bob Filner’s New River Project – Office of Congressman Filner
- Water Quality Sampling on the New River - Carlos Peña, USIBWC Principal Engineer, and Jose Angel, Assistant Executive Officer, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 7
- Public Comment
- Suggested Future Agenda Items/Board Discussion

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information, call 928-782-1598 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

The next meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum will be September 1 in Yuma, Arizona.