



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
February 24, 2016

COLORADO RIVER WATER DELIVERY, SALINITY MANAGEMENT, AND U.S.-MEXICO AGREEMENTS ON AGENDA FOR MARCH 9 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

Colorado River issues along the U.S.-Mexico border will be the focus of the next public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum, sponsored by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place March 9 at 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. PST at the Imperial Irrigation District Board Room, 1285 Broadway, El Centro, CA.

Ed Viriden, Chief of Operations and Maintenance with the Bureau of Reclamation in Yuma, will describe the role of Reclamation's Yuma Area Office in fulfilling the lower Colorado River delivery mission. Reclamation delivers 7.5 million acre-feet (maf) of water to Arizona, California, and Nevada as well as 1.5 maf to Mexico each year. Nearly 70% of this water arrives at Imperial Dam. The water helps to irrigate over 2.5 million acres of land and meet the domestic needs of more than 23 million people. In order to complete its water delivery mission, Reclamation is guided by several laws, court rulings, and treaty requirements which affect daily operations. Mr. Viriden will explain the intricate Colorado River water delivery system below Imperial Dam and the role that salinity agreements play in deliveries to Mexico.

In other business, USIBWC Secretary Sally Spener will give an update on work to enhance U.S.-Mexico cooperation on Colorado River issues, including implementation of a 2012 agreement known as Minute No. 319. Under that agreement, the two countries have worked to enhance the environment of the Colorado River delta, implement water conservation actions, manage salinity, and address water

management in low and high reservoir conditions. Work has already begun on a new agreement to build on and extend the cooperative actions of Minute No. 319.

The USIBWC will also discuss its process for recruiting new Citizens Forum board members. Current board terms are expiring and application forms will be available at the meeting for those interested in applying for the 2016-2018 term.

The USIBWC established the Colorado River Citizens Forum in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission projects and related activities in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California. A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact 928-782-1598 or sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

Media inquiries are directed to:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

4:00-6:00 p.m. PST

Imperial Irrigation District Board Room

1285 Broadway

El Centro, California

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Kevin Eatherly, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Colorado River Water Delivery and Salinity Management – Ed Virden, Chief of Operations and Maintenance, Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma, AZ, will explain the intricate Colorado River water delivery system below Imperial Dam and the role that salinity agreements play in deliveries to Mexico.
- Update on U.S.-Mexico Agreements for Cooperation on Colorado River Issues – Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary, International Boundary and Water Commission, will discuss implementation of Minute No. 319, a 2012 agreement with Mexico, and work to develop a new agreement to enhance U.S.-Mexico cooperation.
- Public Comment
- Recognition of Outgoing Citizens Forum Board Members and Recruitment of New Board Members – Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary, International Boundary and Water Commission
- Board Discussion/Suggested Future Agenda Items

Directions: From Yuma, I-8 west to Imperial Ave. exit, north past 5 stoplights to Broadway, turn right, park at lot at end of the block. They are located east of the Bank of America.

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.