



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
May 10, 2011

MAY 25 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL CENTRO TO DISCUSS NEW RIVER WETLANDS PROJECT, U.S.-MEXICO COOPERATION ON COLORADO RIVER ISSUES

Efforts to improve environmental conditions along the New River and U.S.-Mexico cooperation on Colorado River issues will be discussed at the May 25 public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum (CRCF). The CRCF was established by the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) to facilitate the exchange of information between the community and the Commission about USIBWC activities and related projects in the region. The meeting will take place Wednesday, May 25, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. PDT/MST at the Imperial Irrigation District Board Room, 1285 Broadway in El Centro, California.

Al Kalin, a local farmer and volunteer with the Advisory Committee of the Citizens Congressional Task Force on the New River will give a presentation entitled, “New River Wetlands Project – Improving the Quality of Water.” To help assess the potential of improving water quality in the New River using treatment wetlands, two pilot wetlands were constructed in 2000 and their performance monitored for several years. The project was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Bureau of Reclamation and was built under the direction of the Citizens Congressional Task Force on the New River.

Colorado River issues on the U.S.-Mexico agenda will be discussed by Sally Spener, USIBWC Public Affairs Officer. The United States and Mexico, through the International Boundary and Water Commission, are exploring ways to improve Colorado River cooperation to benefit both countries. Last year, the Commission concluded three international agreements related to the Colorado River. These agreements, known as Minutes, addressed the Yuma Desalting Plant pilot run and the Santa Clara Wetland in Mexico, establishment of binational work groups to study Colorado River issues, and allowing for adjustments to the schedule of Colorado River deliveries to Mexico until repairs are completed on irrigation canals damaged

during last year's earthquake in the Mexicali Valley. This year, the Commission is continuing this joint cooperative process, studying ways the United States and Mexico could work together to develop a binational desalination plant, restore habitat along the Colorado River, and better plan for drought, among other activities.

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 sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

For more information:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. PDT/MST

Imperial Irrigation District Board Room

1285 Broadway

El Centro, CA

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Elston Grubaugh, Colorado River Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- New River Wetlands Project, Improving the Quality of Water – Al Kalin, Imperial Valley farmer and Advisory Committee volunteer of the Citizens Congressional Task Force on the New River
- U.S.-Mexico Colorado River Joint Cooperative Process – Sally Spener, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Suggested Future Agenda Items
- Board Discussion