



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
January 20, 2009

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS MORELOS DAM PROJECT, PLANNED OPERATION OF YUMA DESALTING PLANT

Projects affecting the Lower Colorado River will be discussed at the February 2 public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens' Forum. The Forum was established by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters in the region. The meeting is scheduled for 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (MST) at the Yuma Palms Regional Center Community Room, 1305 S. Yuma Palms Parkway in Yuma, Arizona.

USIBWC Area Operations Manager Anna Morales will discuss the Morelos Dam sediment removal project. Located on the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona-Los Algodones, Baja California, Morelos Dam diverts Mexico's share of Colorado River water. The purpose of the project is to remove sediment that has impacted safe operation of the dam and the dam's capacity to convey flood flows. All necessary permits have been obtained and work will begin in the near future.

Todd Shields of the Imperial Irrigation District will give an update on the All-American Canal lining project. The project, which is currently under construction, is intended to conserve water that is currently lost to seepage.

Representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation will provide updates on the agency's current projects in the region. The presentation will include an overview of water operations, including delivery of Colorado River water to U.S. and Mexican users, compliance with treaties and other international agreements, and groundwater management. Reclamation will also discuss the Yuma Desalting Plant (YDP), which was constructed to meet the salinity requirements for Colorado River water delivered to

Mexico. Reclamation is currently preparing an Environmental Assessment for a plan to operate the plant for up to one year at up to one-third capacity beginning later in 2009. The YDP has generally not operated since its construction because the salinity requirements could be met through other means. Finally, Reclamation will give an update on the budget and status of the Drop 2 Reservoir, which is currently under construction. The reservoir, with a capacity of 8,000 acre-feet, is designed to store flows that are not currently captured in the Lower Colorado River system.

The Colorado River Citizens' Forum Board is comprised of 11 residents of Southern Arizona and Imperial County, California who represent diverse interests in the region. The board conducts quarterly public meetings in the area.

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 email at sallyspener@ibwc.gov.

For more information:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS' FORUM
Monday, February 2, 4:00 - 6:00 P.M. MST
Yuma Palms Regional Center Community Room
1305 S. Yuma Palms Parkway
Yuma, Arizona

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Anna Morales, Yuma Area Operations Manager and Citizens' Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Update on All-American Canal Construction – Todd Shields, Project Manager, Imperial Irrigation District
- Yuma Area Office Water Operations – Hong Nguyen-DeCorse, Water Operations Group Manager, Yuma Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation
- Yuma Desalting Plant Environmental Assessment – Chris Wallis and Sean Torpey, Bureau of Reclamation
- Morelos Dam Sediment Removal Project – Anna Morales, Yuma Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Drop 2 Storage Reservoir Project Budget – Michael Vandavelde, Project Manager, Drop 2 Storage Reservoir Project, Bureau of Reclamation
- 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 sallyspener@ibwc.gov.