



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
January 9, 2020

COLORADO RIVER SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM AND WATER SUPPLY REPORT ON AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING JANUARY 22 IN YUMA

The Colorado River Basin salinity control program and an update on the 2020 Colorado River hydrology report will be the focus of an upcoming public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place on **Wednesday, January 22, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Yuma County Department of Development Services, 2351 West 26th Street, Yuma, Arizona**. The Colorado River Citizens Forum was established to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters.

Don A. Barnett, Executive Director, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, will provide an overview of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. This federal-state program was authorized in the mid-1970s. Over the years, more than \$1 billion has been expended to improve the water quality of the Colorado River. The Program has reduced the annual salt load in the Colorado River by about 1.3 million tons, which has improved the average salinity concentrations and reduced the downstream damages to water users by several hundred million dollars per year.

Noe Santos, P.E., Civil Engineer, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Basin Region, Boulder City, NV, will be presenting on the

Colorado River Basin and how it is experiencing its worst drought in recorded history. The period from 2000 through 2019 is the driest 20-year period in more than 100 years of record keeping. During this period, storage in the Colorado River reservoir system declined from nearly full to about half of capacity; however, above-average hydrologic conditions in the Colorado River Basin in 2019 have helped to avert the first ever shortage declaration in the Lower Basin. With an observed annual inflow into Lake Powell of 120 percent of average, combined with record-breaking water conservation activities, total storage in Colorado River System reservoirs improved from 45 to 52 percent of capacity in calendar year 2019. The Lower Basin will operate in a normal condition in 2020, with releases from Lake Mead through Hoover Dam adjusted for Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and water savings contributions in accordance with the Lower Basin DCP agreement and Section IV of Minute 323 to the 1944 Water Treaty between Mexico and the United States.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact 928-782-1598 or the Public Affairs Office at lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST

Yuma County Development Services

2351 West 26th Street

Yuma, Arizona 85364

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Anna Morales, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program—Reducing Downstream Damages by Millions of Dollars** – Don A. Barnett, Executive Director, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program
- **Colorado River Basin: System Update and Outlook** – Noe Santos, P.E., Civil Engineer, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Basin Region
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

***Directions:** From I-8, exit 2 US-95/16th Street. Go west on 16th Street for approximately 2 1/2 miles. Turn left on Avenue B to 26th Street. Turn left on 26th Street. Building is on your right (south side of Walmart).

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 lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov

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