



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
January 10, 2018

### **COLORADO RIVER WATER SUPPLY AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON AGENDA FOR JANUARY 24 PUBLIC MEETING IN YUMA**

The 2018-2019 water conditions for the Colorado River Basin, and the use of integrated pest management to control vegetation within the Imperial Irrigation District 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 24, 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.

Daniel Bunk, River Operations Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, will give a presentation on the water conditions for 2018-2019 for the Colorado River Basin. The Basin is experiencing its worst drought in recorded history. The period from 2000 through 2017 is the driest 18-year period in more than 100 years of record keeping. During this period, storage in Colorado River System reservoirs declined from nearly full to about half of capacity, and the combined storage of Lake Powell and Lake Mead is currently at the same level it was in 1969 when Lake Powell was first filling. Slightly above average hydrologic conditions in the Colorado River Basin in 2017 have helped, at least temporarily, to offset the impacts of a drought. With an observed annual inflow into Lake Powell of 110 percent of average, combined with water storage and conservation activities at Lake Mead, storage in Colorado River System reservoirs improved from 51 to 55 percent of capacity during 2017. Based on Lake Mead's condition, the lower basin will operate in a normal condition again in 2018, with normal water deliveries to U.S. lower

basin water users and Mexico. Despite the modest improvement in conditions, due to hydrologic uncertainty and the effects of ongoing drought, Reclamation projects about a 15 percent chance of a first-ever lower basin shortage condition as early as 2019.

The Colorado River Citizens Forum will also hear from Mike Pacheco, Water Manager, Imperial Irrigation District, on managing and controlling undesirable plant species within the Imperial Irrigation District's irrigation and drainage system. The goal is to maintain drain bank slope alignments, control soil erosion, reduce maintenance costs, and interact with farmers, agencies, and other organizations to coordinate effective vegetation management solutions.

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](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov).

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**COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Wednesday, January 24, 2018**  
**4:00 – 6:00 p.m. PDT/MST**  
**Yuma County Dept. of Development Services**  
**2351 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Yuma, Arizona 85364**

**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions – Anna Morales, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Colorado River Basin: System Status Update and Outlook for 2018 and 2019 – Daniel Bunk, River Operations Manager, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region
- Vegetation Management for Beneficial Species and Noxious Weeds in the Imperial Irrigation District – Mike Pacheco, Water Manager, Imperial Irrigation District
- Public Comment
- 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](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov)*