



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
January 11, 2017

COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS, SMALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS ON AGENDA FOR JANUARY 25 PUBLIC MEETING IN YUMA

Colorado River water conservation efforts 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 25, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Yuma City Hall, 1 City Plaza in 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, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, will give a presentation on several programs that Reclamation and its stakeholders have actively been involved with to mitigate the impact of the ongoing drought in the Colorado River Basin. The period from 2000 to 2016 was the driest 17-year period in more than 100 years of record keeping. During this period, storage in the Colorado River system reservoirs declined from nearly full to about half capacity and in July 2016, Lake Mead declined to its lowest elevation since the reservoir initially began filling in the 1930s. As a result of the drought and declining reservoir levels, the first ever shortage conditions in the lower Colorado River basin may occur as early as 2018. Mr. Bunk will discuss programs to help address the drought impact, including the Pilot System Conservation Program and the replacement of five turbines in Hoover Dam with “wide head” turbines that can more effectively generate hydropower at lower reservoir elevations.

The Colorado Citizens Forum will also hear from Daniel Czecholinski, Drinking Water Section Manager, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), on how small public water systems had problems maintaining and returning to compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act regulations. ADEQ initiated several process improvements over the last year and the presentation will highlight the changes implemented to increase compliance by small public water systems.

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 25, 2017

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST

Yuma City Hall

1 City Plaza

Yuma, Arizona 85364

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Anna Morales, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Colorado River Basin System Status Update and Drought Response Activities – Daniel Bunk, River Operations Manager, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Initiatives to Assist Small Water Systems – Daniel Czecholinski, Drinking Water Section Manager, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions:** From I-8, take exit 172, merge onto Fourth Avenue. Turn left onto West. 1st Street. Turn right onto South Madison Avenue. 1 City Plaza/City Hall will be on your right approximately 0.20 miles (If you reached the roundabout, you've gone too far).

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.