



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
March 5, 2013

### **AGENCY LEADERS TO DISCUSS WATER ISSUES AT MARCH 13 PUBLIC MEETING IN YUMA**

Commissioner Edward Drusina and Principal Engineer Carlos Peña of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will discuss border water issues during a March 13 public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum in Yuma, Arizona. The USIBWC established the Citizens Forum to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters. The meeting will take place at Yuma County Development Services, Aldrich Hall, 2351 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST.

Commissioner Drusina was appointed by President Barack Obama three years ago to head the USIBWC. The Commission is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico. In Yuma and Imperial Counties, the Commission has a variety of responsibilities including boundary demarcation, delivery of Colorado River water to Mexico, monitoring the salinity of waters of the Colorado River, and addressing water quality issues affecting the New River. In other areas of the border, the USIBWC operates international wastewater treatment plants, flood control projects, and international storage reservoirs. Commissioner Drusina will discuss agency priorities and activities, with a focus on the Colorado River region.

Principal Engineer Carlos Peña will give an update on implementation of Minute 319, a U.S.-Mexico agreement signed in November 2012 to enhance binational cooperation on the Colorado River. Minute 319 is a five-year agreement that addresses distribution of water during shortage and surplus conditions, delivers water for the environment, provides for U.S. investment in water infrastructure in Mexico and allows U.S. water agencies to use a portion of the conserved water, permits Mexico to defer delivery of some of its Colorado River allotment while it continues to make repairs to earthquake-damaged water infrastructure, allows Mexican water to be held in the United States for subsequent delivery, addresses salinity impacts of joint cooperative actions, and identifies potential opportunities for future cooperation on conservation and other activities.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact 928-782-1598 or [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov).

Media inquiries are directed to:

Sally Spener  
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**COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Wednesday, March 13, 2013**  
**4:00-6:00 P.M. MST**  
**Yuma County Development Services Aldrich Hall**  
**2351 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Yuma, Arizona 85364**

**AGENDA**

- Welcome and Introductions – Anna Morales, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Current Direction of the International Boundary and Water Commission – Edward Drusina, Commissioner, USIBWC
- Update on Implementation of Minute 319 on U.S.-Mexico Colorado River Cooperation – Carlos Peña, Principal Engineer, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Suggested Future Agenda Items
- Board Discussion

**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 26<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn left on 26<sup>th</sup> 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 [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov).