



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
April 12, 2017

NEW RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR CALEXICO, SALTON SEA POLICY ON AGENDA FOR APRIL 26 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL CENTRO, CA

The New River Improvement Project and sewage infrastructure problems in Mexicali 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, April 26, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Imperial Irrigation District Board Room, 1285 Broadway, El Centro, CA.** The Colorado River Citizens Forum was established to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters.

Jose L. Angel, Executive Officer, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin, will give a presentation on the status of the New River Improvement Project for the Calexico area. The New River, which flows north into Calexico from Mexicali, Baja California, is affected by pollution originating in both countries. Mr. Angel will discuss the status of implementation of the recommended infrastructure, such as trash screens, encasement, and treated wastewater pump-back systems for the New River in Calexico. Additionally, he will address problems in Mexicali associated with sewer collection and pumping systems and what steps are being taken to address them.

The Colorado River Citizens Forum will also hear about the Salton Sea from Bruce Wilcox, Assistant Secretary of Salton Sea Policy, California Natural Resources Agency. The Salton Sea is California's largest lake, extending from the Coachella Valley into the Imperial Valley. Though saltier than the ocean, the Sea supports an abundance of fish, a food source for millions of migratory birds. As the Salton Sea shrinks for a variety of reasons, air quality in the region suffers because particulates are picked up by the wind from the exposed lakebed. Mr. Wilcox will provide an overview of the Salton Sea Management Program's Phase I Ten-Year Plan, recently released by the State of California. The process for developing and implementing the program, the proposed projects, and the required regulatory compliance issues related to the program will be discussed.

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

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, April 26, 2017
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. PDT/MST
Imperial Irrigation District Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, California

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Roberta (Bobbi) McDermott, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- New River Improvement Project – Jose Angel, Executive Officer, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin
- Salton Sea Policy – Bruce Wilcox, Assistant Secretary of Salton Sea Policy, California Natural Resources Agency
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions:** From Yuma, I-8 west to Imperial Ave. exit (exit # 114) north past 5 stoplights to Broadway, turn right, park at lot at end of the block. They are located east of the Bank of America.

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