



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
May 27, 2015

THE COLORADO RIVER'S ECONOMIC IMPACT, CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, AND NEW RIVER CLEANUP ON AGENDA FOR JUNE 10 PUBLIC MEETING IN CALEXICO

A study analyzing the tremendous importance of Colorado River water to the U.S. economy and discussion of California drought response are on the agenda for the June 10 public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum, sponsored by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place at 4:00 p.m. at the Women's Improvement Club of Calexico, 320 Heber Avenue, Calexico, California.

Arizona State University professor Tim James will present the results of the study that analyzed the economic impact in the seven U.S. Colorado River basin states if Colorado River water were not available for one full year. The study found that over 16 million jobs in the region rely on the availability of Colorado River water, including over 7 million in Southern California and more than 2 million in Arizona. Annually, the Colorado River contributes \$657 billion to California Gross State Product (GSP) and \$185 billion to Arizona GSP. According to the study, the annual contribution of the Colorado River to the combined GSP of the U.S. Basin Region is equivalent to approximately one twelfth of total U.S. Gross Domestic Product. Dr. James will give an overview of key findings of the study, which used models to estimate the river's economic importance.

In other business, Tanya Trujillo, Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California, will explain how the State of California is responding to unprecedented drought conditions. Approximately 40% of the state is considered to be in exceptional drought. Over the

past two years, California has experienced some of the driest months on record coupled with some of the hottest months on record, which has led to a series of water use restrictions. On April 1, 2015, California Governor Jerry Brown issued an Executive Order requiring water use to be reduced by 25% and the State Water Resources Control Board has taken action to implement the reductions. The presentation will include a review of the current hydrologic conditions in California and will provide a summary of actions taken to address the drought, including a review of the Governor's Executive Orders and additional actions such as drought relief funding.

Finally, Jose L. Angel, Assistant Executive Officer with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, will discuss water quality issues related to the New River. Speaking on behalf of the New River and Mexicali Sanitation Binational Technical Committee, Mr. Angel will focus on the current status, planned projects, accomplishments to date, and emerging threats related to the New River and the Mexicali sanitation system. The New River, which has various water quality concerns, flows north from Mexicali, Baja California into the United States at Calexico, California.

The USIBWC established the Colorado River Citizens Forum in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission projects and related activities in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information may contact 928-782-1598 or sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

Media inquiries are directed to:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, June 10, 2015
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. PDT/MST
Women's Improvement Club of Calexico
320 Heber Avenue*
Calexico, California

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Kevin Eatherly, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- The Economic Importance of the Colorado River – Dr. Tim James, Director of Research & Consulting, L. William Seidman Research Institute, Arizona State University
- California Drought Response – Tanya Trujillo, Executive Director, Colorado River Board of California
- New River Cleanup Progress and Emerging Threats – Jose L. Angel, P.E., Assistant Executive Officer, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin
- Public Comment
- Suggested Future Agenda Items
- Board Discussion

***Directions:** From Yuma, I-8 West, merge onto CA-111 south toward Calexico. Turn left on E. Birch St./Ca-98. Turn right onto Heber Avenue.

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.