



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
May 30, 2014

PUBLIC MEETING IN EL CENTRO TO DISCUSS COLORADO RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW, MEXICAN IRRIGATION SYSTEM REPAIRS, AND THE SALTON SEA

Regional water issues will be discussed at the June 11 public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum. The Forum was established by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters in the region. The meeting is scheduled for 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (PDT/MST) at the Imperial Irrigation District Board Room, 1285 Broadway Boulevard in El Centro, California.

In accordance with an agreement known as Minute 319, the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, arranged for the release of water this spring to promote the environmental restoration of the Colorado River Delta. This release of water, known as a pulse flow, is a high-flow event of short duration similar to the runoff experienced during a spring storm. This pulse flow inundated habitat restoration sites and reconnected the river with the sea for the first time in years. USIBWC Environmental Protection Specialist Albert Flores will present an overview of the pulse flow, ongoing monitoring, and future milestones.

In other business, Engineer Jesus Flores, Chief of Irrigation District 014 for Mexico's National Water Commission, will discuss the status of repairs to the irrigation infrastructure damaged in the April 2010 earthquake in the Mexicali Valley. The temblor caused significant damage to the district's irrigation canals, disrupting irrigation for some users.

The Citizens Forum will also hear from Bruce Wilcox, Environmental Manager QSA Water Transfer and Salton Sea Restoration, Imperial Irrigation District (IID), about the status of the Salton Sea. He will present some of the current planning for restoration. The presentation will include the results of the latest hydrology modeling and projections for future lake levels and salinity concentrations. He will also discuss the Imperial County and IID Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative, the Salton Sea Authority's restoration and funding planning, and species conservation habitat efforts, among 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.

Media inquiries are directed to:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, June 11, 2014
4:00-6:00 p.m. PDT/MST
Imperial Irrigation District Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, California

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Kevin Eatherly, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Status of the Salton Sea – Bruce Wilcox, Environmental Manager QSA Water Transfer and Salton Sea Restoration, Imperial Irrigation District
- Repairs to Mexicali Valley Irrigation Infrastructure Damaged in the 2010 Earthquake – Engineer Jesus Flores, Chief of Irrigation District 014, Mexico’s National Water Commission
- Minute 319 Colorado River Environmental Pulse Flow – Albert Flores, Environmental Protection Specialist, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

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.