



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
July 16, 2019

LOWER COLORADO RIVER OPERATIONS AND IMPACTS OF THE DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN ON YUMA AGRICULTURE ON AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR JULY 30 IN YUMA

Lower Colorado River operations and impacts of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan on Yuma County agriculture 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 **Tuesday, July 30, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Yuma County Department of Development Services, 2351 West 26th Street, Yuma, Arizona.** The Colorado River Citizens Forum was established to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters.

Leslie Meyers, P.E., Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, will discuss how specific operating criteria have developed over time, culminating in the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the recent Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) overlay. Negotiations of the Lower Colorado River Basin DCP began in earnest among the Lower Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada in 2013. More recently, the State of Arizona developed an Arizona Implementation Plan that addresses significant stakeholder input. Ms. Meyers will conclude the presentation with an outline of the Arizona process and Implementation Plan.

The Colorado River Citizens Forum will also hear from Wade Noble, General Counsel of the Wellton Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District and Coordinator, Yuma County Agriculture Water Coalition, on the impacts of the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan on Yuma County agriculture.

Colorado River water is delivered by five irrigation districts and the Yuma County Water Users' Association (YCWUA) to approximately 150,000 acres for irrigation. Each of the irrigation districts has a high priority entitlement. YCWUA, like Imperial Irrigation District, has 1st Priority Present Perfected Rights. Off-river lower priority entitlements and users seek the Yuma County agriculture entitlements. The Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan impacts to Yuma County agriculture are mainly the extent to which agriculture water can be moved elsewhere.

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

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. PDT/MST

Yuma County Development Services

2351 West 26th Street

Yuma, Arizona 85364

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Meghan Scott, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan—An Arizona Perspective—**
Leslie Meyers, P.E., Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation
- **Impacts and Potential Impacts of the Lower Basin Drought
Contingency Plan on Yuma County Agriculture—**Wade Noble, General
Counsel Wellton Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, Coordinator,
Yuma County Agriculture Water Coalition
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

***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 26th Street. Turn left on 26th 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 lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov