



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 10, 2018

NEW RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND COLORADO RIVER DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN ON AGENDA FOR OCT. 24 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL CENTRO, CA

Updates on the New River Improvement Project and the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan 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, October 24, 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.

Adriana Godinez, Water Resources Control Engineer, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, will give a presentation on the pollution problems at the border near Calexico and how they are correlated to the emerging problems in Mexicali. The emerging problems vary from pumping plant problems to operations and maintenance problems, which result in bypasses of raw sewage into the New River. Measures to deal with the bypasses had to be taken to help prevent further pollution to the New River. To address these issues, the Strategic Plan was released by the California-Mexico Border Relations Council.

The Strategic Plan divides the New River into five reaches, and Calexico is the first of the phases. Of the recommended projects for Calexico, the New River Improvement Project consists of a trash screen, conveyance system and pump back system. There is also the River

Parkway, which is a City of Calexico Project. Updates on these projects will be provided regarding timelines for the design and construction of projects to address New River pollution in Calexico.

The Colorado River Citizens Forum will also hear about the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan from Kevin Kelley, General Manager, Imperial Irrigation District. Ongoing drought in the Colorado River has led to a decline in the elevation of Lake Mead. Faced with the possibility of water curtailments in the Lower Basin as early as 2020, the Secretary of the Interior has reignited drought contingency talks and is calling on Colorado River contractors to resume efforts to adopt a Drought Contingency Plan. The elements of the plan have been drafted for actions to help shore up Lake Mead elevation to prevent it from reaching catastrophically low levels.

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

Lori Kuczanski
(915) 832-4106
Lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov

COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, October 24, 2018
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. PDT/MST
Imperial Irrigation District Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, California

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Meghan C. Scott, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Update on the New River Improvement Project** – Adriana Godinez, Water Resources Control Engineer, California Regional Water Quality Control Board
- **Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan** – Kevin Kelley, General Manager, Imperial Irrigation District
- **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