



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 10, 2019

U.S. COMMISSIONER TO ATTEND OCTOBER 24 MEETING IN CALEXICO; NEW RIVER WATER QUALITY ON AGENDA

Commissioner Jayne Harkins, head of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), will attend the next public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum. The meeting will take place on **Thursday, October 24, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the City of Calexico, 608 Heber Avenue in Calexico, California.**

Commissioner Harkins was appointed to her position by President Donald Trump in 2018. The Colorado River Citizens Forum was established to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters.

Wayne Belzer, Environmental Engineer, USIBWC, will give a presentation on the New River, detailing international agreements and obligations associated with the New River, a stream that flows from Mexicali, Mexico into the United States at Calexico. The presentation will also highlight water quality data collected by the USIBWC, results and trends of that data, and how the public can access the data. The presentation will also cover projects undertaken to improve New River water quality and development of a protocol to notify stakeholders in the United States when breakdowns in the Mexicali sewer system result in wastewater contamination in the river.

Trina Hamby, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Consumer Protection Manager, Imperial County Public Health Department Division of Environmental Health, will

give a presentation on the progression of water quality in the New River including the improvement of New River water quality as the result of wastewater treatment and capital improvement projects. The presentation will discuss the unquantifiable threats attributed to the variability of the water quality resulting from unannounced and announced sewage bypasses into the New River from the Mexicali wastewater treatment facilities. The presentation will include water quality monitoring and challenges of intermittent and non-comparable testing protocols. Staff will discuss the international water quality standards in comparison to the Federal Clean Water Act. Lastly, staff will discuss the need for a water quality monitoring program that measures and informs the community of the variability in New River water quality.

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

Thursday, October 24, 2019

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. PDT/MST

City of Calexico

608 Heber Avenue

Calexico, California

Agenda

- **Opening Remarks** – Jayne Harkins, Commissioner, USBIWC
- **Welcome and Introductions** – Phil Rosentrater, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **USIBWC History of the New River**—Wayne Belzer, Environmental Engineer, USIBWC
- **New River Water Quality**– Trina Hamby, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Consumer Protection Manager, Imperial County Public Health Department Division of Environmental Health
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

***Directions:** From Yuma, take I-8 West and CA-98 to Heber Avenue in Calexico. Turn left onto Heber Avenue. Destination is on the left.

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