



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
November 28, 2012

PUBLIC MEETING IN EL CENTRO TO DISCUSS NEW COLORADO RIVER AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO AND COLORADO RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

A new agreement with Mexico on Colorado River management will be discussed at the December 5 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. PST at the Imperial Irrigation District Board Room, 1285 Broadway Boulevard in El Centro, California.

Citizens Forum board member Chuck Cullom, Colorado River Programs Manager for the Central Arizona Project, will discuss new domestic and international agreements for Colorado River management, formalized in November with the signing by the International Boundary and Water Commission of Minute 319, "Interim International Cooperative Measures in the Colorado River Basin through 2017 and Extension of Minute 318 Cooperative Measures to Address the Continued Effects of the April 2010 Earthquake in the Mexicali Valley, Baja California." Minute 319 is a five-year agreement between the United States and Mexico that addresses distribution of water during shortage and surplus conditions, delivers water for the environment, provides for U.S. investment in water infrastructure in Mexico, permits Mexico to defer delivery of a portion of its Colorado River allotment while it continues to make repairs to earthquake-damaged water infrastructure, allows Mexican water to be held in the United States for subsequent delivery, addresses salinity impacts of joint cooperative actions, and identifies potential

opportunities for future cooperation on conservation and other activities. The Central Arizona Project (CAP) is one of the agencies investing in Mexico. The investment provides water benefits to the CAP in exchange for their funding, and generates water for Mexico over the long term.

In other business, Richard Johnson, President of the Bard Water District Board of Directors, and Ron Derma, General Manager of the Bard Water District, will present a proposal for establishment of a multi-species or wildlife area. The Bard Water District has proposed that the federal government restore and protect an area that includes Haughtelin Lake, Bard Lake, Tule Lake, and other lands located in the oxbow or ancient Colorado River bed in California seven miles from Yuma, Arizona. In years past, vegetation on these lands used to include cottonwood, honey mesquite, willow, and cattail marshes. Currently only the cattail marshes survive and non-native species dominate. Under the proposal, non-native species would be removed and native vegetation restored. The proposed wetland area would cover approximately 1,000 acres which, if restored, could again become an important part of the Pacific Flyway, benefiting migratory birds, aquatic species, and habitat for threatened and endangered species. The Bard Water District would supply the approximately 600 acre-feet of water to establish the plant species.

Also on the agenda, Bruce Wilcox, Manager of the Water Transfer Mitigation Program for the Imperial Irrigation District, will give a status update on the mitigation program implemented as part of the Quantification Settlement Agreement water transfer. The program has been ongoing since approximately 2005. The presentation will include an update on the joint petition of the Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority to the State Water Resources Control Board to revise the water delivery schedule and increase the habitat and air quality mitigation program at the Salton Sea.

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, December 5, 2012
4:00-6:00 p.m. PST
Imperial Irrigation District Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, California

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Elston Grubaugh, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Colorado River Agreement with Mexico and Related Domestic Agreements – Chuck Cullom, Colorado River Programs Manager, Central Arizona Project
- Multi-Species Conservation Program and Wildlife Area Designation – Richard Johnson, President, Board of Directors, and Ron Derma, General Manager, Bard Water District
- Status Update on the Water Transfer Mitigation Program – Bruce Wilcox, Manager, Water Transfer Mitigation Program, Imperial Irrigation District
- Public Comment
- Suggested Future Agenda Items
- Board Discussion

Directions: From Yuma, I-8 west to Imperial Ave. exit, 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 sally.spener@ibwc.gov.