



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
November 29, 2010

DECEMBER 2 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL CENTRO TO DISCUSS NEW RIVER PROJECT AND THE SALTON SEA

Issues associated with the Salton Sea and the New River will be discussed at the next meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum (CRCF) on Thursday, December 2, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. PST/5:00 – 7:00 p.m. MST at the Imperial Irrigation District Board Room, 1285 Broadway in El Centro, California. The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) established the CRCF in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities and related issues in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California.

Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Biologist Bruce Wilcox will explain IID's decision to release 41,250 acre-feet as mitigation water for the Salton Sea. The action was undertaken in response to developments this year in litigation associated with the agricultural-to-urban water transfer known as the Quantification Settlement Agreement. The water is intended to mitigate environmental impacts on the Salton Sea resulting from the water transfer.

Miguel Figueroa, Executive Director of the Calexico New River Committee, will discuss recent developments in the effort to improve conditions along the New River. The City of Calexico, California and the Calexico New River Committee recently established a Memorandum of Understanding that defines the goals and responsibilities of the parties for the New River Improvement Project. Additionally, work is underway on the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan called for in Assembly Bill 1079. The New River, which flows north from Mexico into the United States at Calexico, has been the focus of efforts to improve water quality and conditions along the stream in the United States.

In a related matter, a representative from the Mexicali utility will discuss recent maintenance problems in the Mexicali sanitation infrastructure that have resulted in discharge of sewage into the New River. Repairs are needed so that the sewage can be pumped to treatment facilities in Mexico.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact the USIBWC's Yuma Office at 928-782-1598 or Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener at 915-832-4175 or via e-mail at: sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

For more information:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, December 2, 2010
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. PST/5:00 – 7:00 p.m. MST
Imperial Irrigation District Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Elston Grubaugh, Colorado River Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Release of Mitigation Water to the Salton Sea – Bruce Wilcox, Biologist, Imperial Irrigation District
- New River Project Update – Miguel Figueroa, Executive Director, Calexico New River Committee
- Mexicali Sanitation Update – State Public Services Commission of Mexicali (CESPM)
- Public Comment
- Suggested Future Agenda Items
- Board Discussion