



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 12, 2017

NEW U.S.-MEXICO COLORADO RIVER AGREEMENT AND SALTON SEA ISSUES ON AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 25 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL CENTRO, CA

A new agreement on the Colorado River known as Minute 323 and the history of the Salton Sea 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 25, 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.

Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary, International Boundary and Water Commission, will give a presentation on the new Commission agreement, Minute 323, "Extension of Cooperative Measures and Adoption of a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in the Colorado River Basin." Signed in September, the Minute follows more than two years of negotiations among federal and state authorities from both countries, taking into consideration recommendations from the work groups, which included water users, scientists, academics, and nongovernmental organizations.

The agreement, which will remain in effect through 2026, extends or replaces key elements of Minute 319, a previous agreement that expires at the end of 2017. Ms. Spener will discuss how Minute 323 promotes cooperation during low and high elevation reservoir

conditions, enhances the ecosystem, and establishes a program of investment in water conservation projects.

The Colorado River Citizens Forum will also hear from Jessica Lovecchio, Senior Environmental Project Manager with the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), on the history of the Salton Sea leading up to its current status. The briefing will cover monitoring and research that has been conducted over the last seven years and how IID is implementing air quality mitigation programs on the playa. Ms. Lovecchio will talk on state and other projects that are in the preliminary stages for 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 the Public Affairs Office at lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, October 25, 2017
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. PDT/MST
Imperial Irrigation District Board Room
1285 Broadway*
El Centro, California

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Roberta (Bobbi) McDermott, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Minute 323, Colorado River Cooperation between the United States and Mexico – Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary, International Boundary and Water Commission
- Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program – Jessica Lovecchio, Senior Environmental Project 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