



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

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**COLORADO RIVER WATER SUPPLY ISSUES,
NEW RIVER IMPACTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT
AUGUST 20 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL CENTRO**

Colorado River water supply issues are among the topics to be discussed at the upcoming public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens' Forum (CRCF). The meeting is scheduled for August 20, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Imperial Irrigation District, William R. Condit Board Room, 1285 Broadway in El Centro, California. The CRCF was established by the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) in 2003 to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related issues in the area.

The United States Bureau of Reclamation will discuss projects related to Colorado River storage and shortage operations. Cindy Hoeft, Resource Management Office Director for the Bureau's Yuma Area Office, will discuss regulatory storage below Parker Dam. She will touch briefly on the current reservoirs, such as Senator Wash, and their limitations, and she will provide the status and schedule of the planned Drop 2 Reservoir. Hoeft will also discuss Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lakes Powell and Mead. In light of drought conditions, the Bureau of Reclamation has been preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which analyzes alternatives for Colorado River management during shortage conditions. The presentation will cover the key points of the shortage guidelines and the EIS process and schedule.

Another water project underway in the basin is the lining of the All American Canal. A portion of the canal, which conveys Colorado River water to users in the United States, is being lined as a water conservation

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measure. Michael L. King, Manager of the Imperial Irrigation District Water Department, will give an update on the project's status.

In other business, Miguel Figueroa, Executive Director of the Calexico New River Committee (CNRC), will present information from a survey conducted among residents of the west side of Calexico, the area closest to the New River. The survey is a multi-purpose instrument to document the possible effects of New River pollution on those living near it. The main questions that guide this investigation are: Does living near the New River have negative impacts for Calexico residents? If so, what are they? The purpose of the survey project is to gather data on the possible risks and hazards of living near the New River.

For the project, the CNRC collected data that will help identify three issues: 1) the economic impact of living near the New River; 2) the health and quality of life issues of living near the New River; and 3) community support and understanding of improvement projects proposed and implemented by the CNRC. In addition, several of the questions overlap with other health surveys conducted in Calexico and can be correlated with them to determine if living near the New River affects the health of residents.

The final presentation, by Bill Plummer, Manager of the Yuma Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District, will discuss transboundary utility and infrastructure crossings. A number of projects, including power lines, highways, and a railroad, are either planned or could be on the horizon in the Yuma area in the near future. Some could involve border crossings and affect irrigation facilities and agricultural operations in both countries.

The Colorado River Citizens' Forum Board is comprised of 11 residents of Southern Arizona and Imperial County, California who represent diverse interests in the region. The board conducts quarterly public meetings in the area. Board co-chairs are Bill Plummer, Manager of the Yuma Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District, and John Turner, Project Manager for the Yuma Office of the USIBWC.

A complete meeting agenda is attached. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting can contact the USIBWC's Yuma Office at 928-782-1598 or sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov.

For more information:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS' FORUM
Monday, August 20, 4:00 - 6:00 P.M. PDT
Imperial Irrigation District, William R. Condit Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA

Agenda

- Welcome - Bill Plummer, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- All American Canal Lining Project Update - Michael L. King, Manager of the Water Department, Imperial Irrigation District
- Calexico New River Community Survey Report - Miguel Figueroa, Executive Director, Calexico New River Committee
- Regulatory Storage Below Parker Dam - Cindy Hoeft, Resource Management Office Director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Area Office
- Update on Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lakes Powell and Mead - Cindy Hoeft, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Area Office
- Proliferation of Utilities in the Yuma Area (roads, power lines, railroad) - Bill Plummer, Manager, Yuma Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District
- Public Comment
- Suggested Future Agenda Items
- Board Discussion

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 sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov.