

Colorado River Citizens Forum  
Imperial Irrigation District Board Room  
El Centro, CA  
June 7, 2010  
Tentative Meeting Notes\*

Board Members in attendance:

Elston Grubaugh	Stella Mendoza
Miguel Figueroa	Nancy Wright
Wade Noble	

Board Members absent:

Bill Plummer	Kevin Eatherly
Sam Spiller	Marcos Moore

USIBWC Staff in attendance:

Carlos Pena, USIBWC, El Paso  
Anna Morales  
Diane Hinkle

MXIBWC Staff in attendance:

Francisco Bernal  
Juan Rios Moreno

❖ 27 Members of the public in attendance.

- Water Quality Sampling on the New River -- Carlos Peña USIBWC Principal Engineer and Jose Angel, Asst. Executive Officer, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 7

Carlos Peña gave an overview of data graphs collected from IBWC sampling sites. Data shows improvement in New River water quality since the Las Arenitas Wastewater Treatment Plant was completed in Mexicali.

Jose Angel provided a presentation on the history of New River pollution. He gave background on the New River, sources of pollution, binational projects/strategies (such as Binational Technical Committee), joint monitoring and past/current data analysis/improvements.

**Questions & Answers (Q&A):**

Is the river still polluted? Yes, Mexico and the US have spent \$50 million to get the raw sewage out, this does not mean it is in compliance.

Does the public have to wear special personal equipment? County Health Department can better answer that question. Local Health Officer is Dr. Stephen Munday.

Are there signs posted at New River by the state or federal government citing safety concerns? No, but Clean Water Act has listed the river as impaired.

We have good working relations with Mexico, as we have a mutual interest in this project.

- Earthquake Damage to Infrastructure in Irrigation District 014 (Mexico), Jorge Soto of Conagua (Mexico's National Water Commission, Mexicali, BC)

The epicenter of the 7.2 magnitude April 4 quake was approximately 48 km from Calexico, CA on the Laguna Salada fault line.

A map was provided showing the affected areas and the severity of damage to the canal structures.

Reported 76.39 km of infrastructure damaged in their major water delivery system.

Of the 69,776 hectares of land under irrigation, 4,697 hectares were usable after the quake and 24,860 hectares could potentially be irrigated.

- Earthquake damage to Imperial Irrigation District (IID), Vince Brooke, Assistant to the Water Manager, and John Curtis, Assistant Manager, Construction & Maintenance, Water Department, Imperial Irrigation District

Earthquake damage on April 4, 2010 shows the severity of the damage to approximately 150,000 acres of agricultural land. Inspection of the damage on the All American Canal siphon showed a lot of cracks in the hemming and displacement at the base of the piers. Sand boils all over the New River channel. There was a major crack where the spillway and siphon join.

Leakage developed on the outside of the spillway wall which leaked 5 gallons per minute and ran for a few days. Repairs were made by injecting foam in the cracks to stop the leakage but failed. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation put in a silt blanket (gravel & sand) on top. Lidar imaging system was used to ensure no water pressure had been built up. An ROV (underwater camera system) was put into the water to check all joints in spillway and channels to check if there were any cracks. Used ground-penetrating radar which helps detect any water and voids.

Final work is being done, cleaning the spillway of all mud.

#### Q&A:

How much damage was done? Approximately 180 sites were identified immediately after the earthquake, We found damage up to 2 weeks after. Repairs have been done in a timely manner.

What about liquefaction in that area?

All has been easily repaired.

- Congressman Bob Filner's New River Report

- Juanita Salas read a statement from Congressman Filner about the need to address pollution along the New River.

#### Public Comment/Suggested Future Agenda Items

Next meeting to be held in Yuma September 1, 2010 location to be determined

Thank you to all the presenters for their presentations.

\*Meeting notes are tentative and summarize in draft the contents and discussion of Citizens Forum Meetings. While these notes are intended to provide a general overview of Citizens Forum Meetings, they may not necessarily be accurate or complete, and may not be representative of USIBWC policy or positions.