



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
February 20, 2008

NEW RIVER WATER QUALITY ON AGENDA FOR MARCH 3 PUBLIC MEETING IN CALEXICO, CALIFORNIA

The results of water quality studies on the New River will be presented at the next public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens' Forum (CRCF). The meeting will take place March 3, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (PST) at the San Diego State University-Imperial Valley Campus, 720 Heber Avenue, Room N-101, Calexico, CA. 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 in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California.

Ongoing water quality sampling of the New River near the international boundary will be discussed by Carlos Peña, USIBWC Environmental Management Division Engineer, and Jose Angel, Assistant Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 7. The presentation will provide information on the recent improvements in the New River as a result of new wastewater infrastructure projects in Mexicali, Baja California. Pollution in the river, which flows north from Mexico into the United States, has been an ongoing issue of concern.

Mr. Peña will also give an update on environmental projects developed under Minute 306, a 2000 agreement of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico. These cooperative projects are being implemented by nongovernmental organizations and state and federal agencies for the restoration and conservation of the Colorado River Delta region.

An update on the planned Drop 2 storage reservoir will be presented by Cindy Hoeft, Resource Management Office Director for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Area Office. The reservoir, with a capacity of 8,000 acre-feet, is designed to store flows that are not currently

captured in the lower Colorado River system. These flows are currently considered “non-storable” due to lack of reservoir capacity downstream from Parker Dam.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting can 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: sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov.

For more information:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS' FORUM
Monday, March 3, 4:00 - 6:00 P.M. PST
San Diego State University - Imperial Valley Campus
720 Heber Avenue, Room N-101
Calexico, CA 92231

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions - Al Goff, USIBWC, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Drop 2 Storage Reservoir Update - Cindy Hoeft, Resource Management Office Director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Area Office
- Water Quality Sampling on the New River - Carlos Peña, USIBWC Environmental Management Division Engineer, and Jose Angel, Assistant Executive Officer, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 7
- Minute 306 Environmental Projects - Carlos Peña, USIBWC Environmental Management Division Engineer
- Other Updates
- 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.