



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
May 6, 2009

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE ALL-AMERICAN CANAL LINING, CONSTRUCTION OF THE DROP 2 RESERVOIR, AND MEXICALI WETLANDS PROJECT

Regional water projects will be discussed at the May 11 public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens' Forum. The Forum was established by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters in the region. The meeting is scheduled for 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (PDT/MST) at the Imperial Irrigation District Board Room, 1285 Broadway, El Centro, CA.

Dee Bradshaw, Assistant Supervisor for Environmental Management for the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), will discuss environmental aspects related to the All-American Canal lining project. The project, which was recently dedicated, is intended to conserve water that would otherwise be lost to seepage. IID Project Manager Todd Shields will discuss operational issues related to moving water into the new canal segment.

The board will also learn about a project intended to improve the quality of treated wastewater from the Las Arenitas treatment plant in Mexicali. Francisco Zamora of the Sonoran Institute will discuss a project to develop the design of a treatment wetland with the objective of improving the quality of the effluent. Effluent from the plant is discharged to the Hardy River through an agricultural drain. Thirty percent of the total wastewater treated at the plant has been dedicated as ecological flow for the Hardy River. The State Public Services Commission of Mexicali (CESPM) commissioned the Sonoran Institute to develop the design of a treatment wetland. The design calls for the construction of a three-cell artificial

wetland totaling 247 acres. Once the wetland is fully operational, it is expected that the quality of the effluent would meet Mexican standards for direct human contact. Implementation would include the reconditioning of the existing lagoons instead of the construction of a new wetland, planting of cattail and other plants, and a passive recreation and environmental education component.

In other business, Michael Vandavelde of the Bureau of Reclamation will give an update on construction of the Drop 2 Storage Reservoir. 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. The presentation will include photos of construction progress.

The Colorado River Citizens' Forum Board is comprised of 11 residents of Southern Arizona and Imperial County, California. All board terms are expiring and Commission staff will discuss the process for applying to serve on the board. Application forms will be available at the meeting.

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 email at sallyspener@ibwc.gov.

For more information:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS' FORUM
Monday, May 11, 4:00 - 6:00 P.M. PDT/MST
Imperial Irrigation District Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Bill Plummer, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Update on Construction of the Drop 2 Storage Reservoir – Michael Vandavelde, Project Manager, Drop 2 Storage Reservoir Project, Bureau of Reclamation
- Environmental Aspects and Operational Issues Related to the All-American Canal Lining – Dee Bradshaw, Assistant Supervisor, Environmental Management, and Todd Shields, Project Manager, Imperial Irrigation District
- Improving the Quality of Mexicali Effluent: Design and Implementation Plan for a Treatment Wetland – Francisco Zamora-Arroyo, Director, Upper Gulf of California Legacy Program, Sonoran Institute
- Public Comment
- Suggested Future Agenda Items
- Board Discussion and Recognition of Board Members
- How to Apply to the Citizens' Forum Board – Anna Morales, Yuma Area Manager, USIBWC

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.gov.