



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
March 3, 2015

AGENCY HEAD TO SPEAK AT MARCH 11 PUBLIC MEETING IN YUMA, ARIZONA; DROUGHT RESPONSE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION ALSO ON THE AGENDA

Edward Drusina, Commissioner for the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), will be in Yuma, Arizona on March 11 at a public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum. Sponsored by the USIBWC, the Citizens Forum promotes the exchange of information between the community and the U.S. Section about Commission activities and related issues. The meeting will take place at 4:00 p.m. MST/PDT at the Yuma County Development Services Building, 2351 West 26th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

Appointed by President Barack Obama, Edward Drusina has served as Commissioner for five years. He will discuss current drought conditions affecting the border region and the Commission's ongoing work to enhance U.S.-Mexico cooperation on the Colorado River.

The Citizens Forum will also hear from Pamela Adams with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, discussing various activities underway to respond to drought in the Colorado River Basin. From 2000 through 2014, the Colorado River Basin experienced one of the driest 15-year periods in over 1,200 years. Since June 2013, the U.S. Basin States and Reclamation have been engaged in a process to protect critical reservoir elevations should drought conditions continue and worsen. The process has resulted in agreements promoting steps to leave water in Lakes Mead and Powell.

Ms. Adams will also discuss the *Moving Forward* effort, a result of the 2012 Colorado River Basin Study, which confirmed that, in the absence of timely actions, there are likely to be significant shortfalls between projected water supplies and demands in coming decades in the Colorado River Basin. The *Moving Forward* effort builds upon and enhances the broad, inclusive stakeholder process

demonstrated in the Basin Study with an ultimate goal of identifying actionable steps with broad-based support to address projected water supply and demand imbalances.

Finally, John MacDonald, Field Manager with the Bureau of Land Management Yuma Field Office, will discuss ongoing restoration efforts along the lower Colorado River in Yuma, Arizona at Mittry Lake, Paradise Cove, and Betty's Kitchen. Mittry Lake efforts include rehabilitation after the 2011 Laguna Fire and other restoration efforts across 300 additional acres. At Paradise Cove East, work includes designing a new trail, opening access for fishing and river recreation, and clearing invasive species to allow for fire and law enforcement accessibility. Paradise Cove West efforts involve continued collaboration with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to design endangered species habitat as mitigation to cleared areas along the Colorado River international boundary.

The USIBWC established the Colorado River Citizens Forum in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about activities in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California. The Commission is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico. A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact 928-782-1598 or sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

Media inquiries are directed to:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, March 11, 2015
4:00-6:00 p.m. MST/PDT
Yuma County Development Services Building
2351 West 26th Street*
Yuma, Arizona 85364

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Anna Morales, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Remarks – Edward Drusina, Commissioner, USIBWC
- Colorado River Pilot System Conservation Program and *Moving Forward* after the Water Supply and Demand Study – Pamela Adams, Hydrologist, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Restoration Efforts along the Lower Colorado River – John MacDonald, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Yuma Field Office
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions:** From I-8, exit 2 US-95/16th Street. Go west on 16th Street for approximately 2 1/2 miles. Turn left on Avenue B to 26th Street. Turn left on 26th Street. Building is on your right (south side of Walmart).

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 sally.spener@ibwc.gov.