



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
September 12, 2016

EFFORTS TO REDUCE NEW RIVER POLLUTION TO BE DISCUSSED AT SEPTEMBER 28 PUBLIC MEETING

Efforts in the United States and Mexico to address pollution affecting the New River will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum sponsored by the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting takes place on **Wednesday, September 28, 2016 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** at the **Imperial Irrigation District Board Room, 1285 Broadway, El Centro, CA.**

In 2015, the Sonoran Institute developed and implemented a comprehensive ecological sanitation project to address the problem of illegal dumping in a portion of the International Drain in Mexico, one of the drains that discharge into the New River. In March 2016, the Sonoran Institute began the second phase of the project, named “An integrated approach for addressing solid waste pollution sources in the New River, Calexico - Mexicali Region.” Under the second phase, the Sonoran Institute is working to permanently reduce the illegal disposal of solid waste in five urban drains in the City of Mexicali that contribute to the pollution of the New River, with the ultimate goal of eliminating public health risks, improving the urban landscape in Mexico, and improving water quality of the New River as it flows to the United States. Fatima Luna, Environmental and Natural Resource Economist for the Sonoran Institute’s Colorado

River Delta Program, will discuss the plan for addressing solid waste issues in the New River region.

The Colorado River Citizens Forum will also hear an update about the New River Strategic Plan from Jose Angel, Executive Officer of the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board. The plan's recommendations include actions to address New River pollution in the United States by constructing a trash screen and infrastructure to pipe and pump wastewater.

The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and activities in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 928-782-1598 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

News media may contact:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Imperial Irrigation District Board Room

1285 Broadway

El Centro, CA*

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Roberta (Bobbi) Stevenson-McDermott, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- An Integrated Approach for Addressing Solid Waste Pollution Sources in the New River, Calexico-Mexicali Region – Fatima Luna, Environmental and Natural Resource Economist for the Sonoran Institute’s Colorado River Delta Program
- Update on the New River Strategic Plan – Jose Angel, Executive Officer, Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

*Directions: From Yuma, I-8 west to Imperial Ave. exit, north past 5 stoplights to Broadway, turn right, park at lot at end of the block. They are located east of the Bank of America.

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.