

For immediate release
July 13, 2004

MEXICALI SANITATION, COACHELLA CANAL LINING, COLORADO RIVER DELTA ON AGENDA FOR JULY 26 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL CENTRO

The Colorado River Citizens' Forum (CRCF) of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will hold a public meeting on Monday, July 26 in El Centro, California. The purpose of the CRCF is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related issues in the area. The meeting is scheduled for 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. PDT at the Imperial County Farm Bureau Conference Room, 1000 Broadway, El Centro, California.

Ing. Efrain Muñoz, Director General of the State Public Service Commission of Mexicali (CESPM), will discuss sanitation projects in Mexicali, Baja California. The North American Development Bank (NADB) in June signed a financing agreement to provide a \$13 million grant for a wastewater improvement project in Mexicali; the grant is being made available through the EPA-funded Border Environment Infrastructure Fund, which is administered by the NADB. The project includes construction of a wastewater treatment plant and related infrastructure.

In addition, USIBWC Environmental Engineer Carlos Peña will give an update on issues related to the Colorado River Delta. The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, recently formed a binational advisory committee to address issues related to the Colorado River Delta. The committee met in May; current efforts are focused on developing an online database of material related to the delta region.

Dan Farris, Director of Operations for the Coachella Valley Water District, will provide information about the plan to line 33.4 miles of the Coachella Canal with concrete. Construction is expected to begin later this year with completion in early 2007. The project is being done to recover water that is currently lost due to seepage.

The Colorado River Citizens' Forum Board is comprised of 12 residents of Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California who represent diverse interests in the region. The board has two co-chairs, Marie Barrett, New River Wetlands Project Outreach Coordinator, and USIBWC Deputy Commissioner Carlos Marin, who serves as the agency's representative on the board. The board conducts quarterly public meetings in the area to discuss plans and issues related to ongoing and future USIBWC projects and related activities.

Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting can contact the USIBWC's Yuma Projects Office at (928) 782-1598 or Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener at (915) 832-4175 or via e-mail at sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov.

The complete meeting agenda appears below.

For more information:

Sally Spener
(915) 832-4175
sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov

COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS' FORUM

Monday, July 26, 2004

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. PDT

Imperial County Farm Bureau Conference Room

1000 Broadway

El Centro, California

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions - Al Goff, Yuma Project Manager, USIBWC
- Mexicali Sanitation Projects - Ing. Efrain Muñoz, Director General, State Public Services Commission of Mexicali (CESPM)
- Coachella Canal Lining Project - Dan Farris, Director of Operations, Coachella Valley Water District
- Colorado River Delta Advisory Committee - Carlos Peña, Environmental Engineer, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion/Suggested Future Agenda Items

The next meeting will be November 1 in Arizona.

Directions: From Yuma, take I-8 west. Exit on Imperial Avenue to El Centro. Stay straight on Imperial Avenue. Turn right on Broadway to 1000 Broadway.

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.