



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
December 1, 2009

DECEMBER 14 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS REGIONAL WATER ISSUES

Issues related to water supply, water quality, and the environment will be discussed at the December 14 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. (PST) at the Imperial Irrigation District Board Room, 1285 Broadway, El Centro, CA.

Michael Vandavelde of the Bureau of Reclamation will show a brief video called “One Drop at a Time” about the Drop 2 Storage Reservoir, a water conservation project currently under construction. 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 video will explain the purpose of the project, funding sources, and benefits. Mr. Vandavelde will then give an update on Drop 2 construction. He will illustrate the major features of the facility and show some of the major construction tasks, such as placing a large steel drain under Interstate 8.

Miguel Figueroa, Executive Director of the Calexico New River Committee, will give a presentation about the New River Improvement Project, authorized by California legislation to study, monitor, remediate, and enhance New River water quality in Imperial County to protect human health and develop a river parkway suitable for public use and enjoyment. The Calexico New River Committee believes its work and the New River Improvement Project will help transform the New River in Calexico to an attractive community asset that will protect public health and the environment while fostering local

economic development. The New River, which flows north into Calexico from Mexico, has a history of poor water quality.

Bruce Wilcox of the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) will discuss efforts underway to mitigate and provide for the conservation of wildlife species and associated habitat that may be impacted by the Quantification Settlement Agreement, one of the largest agricultural to urban water transfers in the United States. As part of that transfer, IID is responsible for implementing mitigation measures. IID will provide an update on the status of the various mitigation and conservation measures either underway or planned for the project. The measures include air quality mitigation, creation of wetland and riparian habitat, and ongoing studies and surveys to inform future mitigation efforts.

The Colorado River Citizens Forum Board is comprised of nine residents of Southern Arizona and Imperial County, California who represent diverse interests in the region. The board holds quarterly public meetings in the area.

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:

Sally Spener
915-832-4175
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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Monday, December 14, 2009
4:00 - 6:00 P.M. PST/5:00 – 7:00 P.M. MST
Imperial Irrigation District Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Elston Grubaugh, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- “One Drop at a Time” – a video about the Drop 2 Storage Reservoir
- Drop 2 Storage Reservoir Construction Status December 2009 – Michael Vandavelde, Project Manager, Drop 2 Storage Reservoir Project, Bureau of Reclamation
- Environmental Mitigation for the Quantification Settlement Agreement – Bruce Wilcox, Imperial Irrigation District
- Calexico New River Committee Activities for 2010 and the New River Improvement Project – Miguel Figueroa, Executive Director, Calexico New River Committee
- 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.gov.