



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
May 4, 2022

COLORADO RIVER 500+ PLAN AND SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE THE NEW RIVER WATER QUALITY ON AGENDA FOR MAY 18 MEETING VIA WEBINAR

Colorado River drought and response activities, and solutions to improve the New River water quality will be the focus of the [Colorado River Citizens Forum](#) on **Wednesday, May 18, 4:00-6:00 p.m. MST/PDT via Teams webinar**. The Colorado River Citizens Forum was established in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California.

Daniel Bunk, Chief, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, [Lower Colorado Basin Region](#), Bureau of Reclamation will provide an update on current water conditions, 2022 shortage operations, and additional drought response activities. The Colorado River Basin is experiencing a prolonged, historic drought. Lake Powell and Lake Mead are both at historically low water levels and Lake Mead is operating in a Tier 1 shortage condition in 2022, with water reductions to Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico. Over the past decade, the U.S., Mexico, and lower basin partners have been working together to help offset the impacts of persistent low runoff conditions. Conservation programs in both countries have added approximately 4.5 million acre-feet to Lake Mead storage, equivalent to approximately 60 feet in elevation at current lake levels. As the drought and low flow conditions have continued, both countries recognize the need to do more. In 2021, the U.S. and lower basin partners joined the “500+ Plan” which aims to generate at least 500,000 acre-feet per year over the next two years of additional voluntarily conserved water in the lower basin, on top of the required shortage reductions over the next two years.

Francisco Zamora, Senior Director of Programs, [Sonoran Institute](#) will be speaking on the Mexicali Fluye initiative and how it will create a nature-based solution demonstration project to improve the water quality of the New River. The project will leverage knowledge from earlier

efforts and a demonstration site of three river miles to enhance habitat in urban wetlands, create green corridors, and improve water quality in the New River.

To join our Teams Meeting, click [here](#). Click on the “Join” button. If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the “Join” link and ensuring your camera and microphone is functioning. Or join by phone: Call-in number: **(915) 320-4718 | Conference ID: 345 668 683#**

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the Meeting. Click [here](#) for the Colorado River Citizens Forum page. Look for the links for the 5/18/2022 meeting. If you would like to speak during public comment, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Lori Kuczanski at lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov or 915-494-6027 by noon on May 18.

Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact 928-782-1598 or the Public Affairs Office at lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.

Lori Kuczanski
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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST/PDT

Teams Webinar

To join our Teams Meeting, go to our web page:

<https://go.usa.gov/xH4zN> and click on “Join”. If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the Join link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning.

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Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** — Meghan Scott, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Colorado River Drought and Drought Response Activities** — Daniel Bunk, Chief, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, Lower Colorado Basin Region, Bureau of Reclamation
- **Mexicali Fluye: Nature-Based and Community-Based Solutions to Improve New River Water Quality** — Francisco Zamora, Senior Director of Programs, Sonoran Institute
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

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 lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov

****If you are receiving your notice via United States Postal Service and would like to only receive notices via email, please send “Opt-in, CRCF” to lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov**