



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
June 1, 2021

ARIZONA'S WATER REDUCTION IN 2022, WATER SCARCITY PLAN AND BINATIONAL AQUIFER COLLABORATION TO BE DISCUSSED AT JUNE 10 WEBINAR

The United States Section of the [International Boundary and Water Commission](#) (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum (SEAZCF) on **June 10, 4:00-6:00 p.m. MST via webinar.**

In 2022, Arizona will likely be headed into a declared Tier 1 shortage on the Colorado River. The shortage will result in a substantial cut to Arizona's share of the river, with reductions falling largely to central Arizona agricultural users. Water supplies for cities will not be affected and tribal supplies remain secure. Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) Board Vice President Mark Taylor will discuss the implications of a Tier 1 shortage, along with an update on Colorado River conditions, the effect of the U.S. Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan in keeping us out of shortage to this point and the future of Colorado River Basin allocations.

Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary, USIBWC, will discuss [Minute No. 323](#), "Extension of Cooperative Measures and Adoption of a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in the Colorado River Basin," a 2017 agreement of the International Boundary and Water Commission. The Minute describes how Mexico will participate in a water conservation program to help protect the Colorado River water supply. The Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan complements water conservation efforts being undertaken in the United States under the U.S. Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan. In accordance with both plans, when Lake Mead drops to certain levels, both countries will save specific volumes of water that can be recovered when reservoir conditions improve. Next year, both countries are expected to undertake additional permanent reductions due to worsening drought conditions.

Sharon B. Megdal, Ph.D., Director, University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center, will discuss how groundwater assessment is critical to developing a common understanding of aquifer conditions. However, the invisibility of groundwater makes characterizing groundwater conditions challenging in the best of circumstances. Assessment of aquifers that span international borders is associated with additional complexities, including but not limited to different languages, customs and approaches to modeling and measurement, asynchronous budgeting processes, and asymmetrical regulatory frameworks. The presentation will identify factors that have facilitated binational collaboration and successful completion of studies, along with some of the challenges faced by teams of scientists and agency personnel, and highlight some of the outputs, including a few recently published papers. Finally, the presentation will touch on prospects for binational groundwater management.

The Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum was established to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related activities in Santa Cruz, Cochise, and Pima Counties. A complete meeting agenda follows.

To join our Teams Meeting, go to <https://go.usa.gov/x6aQC>. 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 are functioning. Or join by phone: Call-in number: **(915) 320-4718** | Conference ID: **451 729 259#**

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting at <https://go.usa.gov/x6aQC>. Look for the links for the 6/10/21 meeting. If you would like to speak during public comment, then please sign up ahead of time by contacting Sally Spener at sally.spener@ibwc.gov or 915-832-4175 by noon on June 10.

Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 520-281-1832 or the Public Affairs Office at sally.spener@ibwc.gov

For more information:

Lori Kuczmanski

(915) 494-6027

lori.kuczmanski@ibwc.gov

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, June 10, 2021

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST

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

<https://go.usa.gov/x6aQC> and 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 are functioning.

Or join by phone: Call in number: (915) 320-4718 | Conference ID: **451 729 259#**

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** — Mark Taylor, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Preparing for a Tier 1 Colorado River Shortage** — Mark Taylor, Vice President, Central Arizona Project
- **The Colorado River Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan** — Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary, USIBWC
- **Working Collaboratively on the Arizona-Sonora Portion of the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program**— Sharon B. Megdal, Ph.D., Director, University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center
- **Public Comment** (To make public comment, RSVP by noon on June 10 to sally.spener@ibwc.gov call 915-832-4175)
- **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 520-281-1832 extension 103 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov