



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
August 28, 2013

COLORADO RIVER WATER SUPPLY AND HABITAT RESTORATION ON AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 11 PUBLIC MEETING IN YUMA

Colorado River water supply issues and restoration efforts along the river in Yuma will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum on Wednesday, September 11, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST at Yuma County Development Services, Aldrich Hall, 2351 West 26th Street, Yuma, AZ. The Colorado River Citizens Forum, a program of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), was established to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters.

Daniel Bunk, Hydrologist with the Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region, will discuss the state of the Colorado River Basin. As part of its ongoing management of Colorado River reservoirs, the Bureau of Reclamation has determined that, based on the best available data projections, the release of water from Lake Powell next water year will be the lowest since the filling of the lake in the 1960s. Lake Mead is projected to decline an additional eight feet during 2014 as a result of the lower Lake Powell annual release; however, Lake Mead will operate under normal conditions in calendar year 2014, with water users in the Lower Colorado River Basin and Mexico receiving their full water orders in accordance with the 2007 Interim Guidelines and the 1944 Treaty with Mexico.

The Colorado River Basin is currently experiencing its driest 14-year period in over 100 years of historical records. With a good winter snowpack next year, the outlook could change significantly as it did in 2011, but the Basin also needs to be prepared for continuing drought. Currently, the longer-term projections from Reclamation's hydrologic models show a very small chance of Lower Basin delivery shortages in 2015, with the first significant chance of reduced water deliveries in the lower basin in 2016. These projections will be updated monthly and will reflect changes in weather and the resulting hydrology.

In other business, John MacDonald, Field Manager with the Bureau of Land Management, will discuss ongoing restoration efforts along the Colorado River in Yuma, including extensive work within the Mitty Lake and Paradise Cove landscapes. Mitty Lake efforts include rehabilitation after the 2011 Laguna Fire that destroyed Betty's Kitchen, and restoration efforts across 300 additional acres. Paradise Cove East efforts include designing a new trail, opening access for fishing and river recreation, and clearing invasive species to allow access for fire officials and law enforcement. Paradise Cove West efforts include continued collaboration with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to design endangered species habitat as mitigation for cleared areas along the Colorado River international boundary.

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

Media inquiries are directed to:

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, September 11, 2013
4:00-6:00 P.M. MST
Yuma County Development Services, Aldrich Hall
2351 West 26th Street
Yuma, Arizona 85364

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Anna Morales, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Restoration Efforts along the Lower Colorado River in Yuma, Arizona – John MacDonald, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management
- Colorado River Basin, State of the System – Daniel Bunk, Hydrologist, Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region
- Public Comment
- Suggested Future Agenda Items
- Board Discussion

Directions: From I-8, exit 2 US-95/16th Street. Go west on 16th Street for approximately 2 1/2 miles. Turn left on Avenue B to 26th Street. Turn left on 26th Street. Building is on your right (south side of Walmart).

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.