



**International Boundary and Water Commission
United States and Mexico**



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**COMMISSION RELEASES LIST OF
RECOVERY ACT PROJECTS**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has released a list of projects (see attached) to be funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Act includes \$220 million for USIBWC projects. The USIBWC list includes levee rehabilitation in the Upper and Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Projects in Doña Ana County in New Mexico, and El Paso, Hudspeth, and Hidalgo Counties in Texas.

The USIBWC has identified the need to raise levee height and make structural repairs to ensure the levees provide adequate protection during the 100-year flood, a flood that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. The levee rehabilitation is intended to meet standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). U.S. Section hydraulic modeling and geotechnical analysis have identified levee segments where there are height deficiencies or structural weaknesses that could lead to levee failure during a flood. The USIBWC has also undertaken required environmental studies. The Recovery Act funding will allow rehabilitation of approximately 170 miles of levees, including Rio Grande levees and levees in the interior floodways in the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project.

“With this funding, we will be able to rehabilitate most of our deficient levees in just two to three years,” said U.S. Commissioner C.W. “Bill” Ruth. “At previous funding levels, we were looking at a 20-year project to complete the work.”

As required by the Act, the USIBWC will contract out the work using competitive bidding to the maximum extent possible. Information about contracting opportunities will be available at: www.FedBizOpps.gov. The USIBWC expects the funds to create over 300 jobs working directly on levee rehabilitation activities. The USIBWC will provide regular updates on its planning and spending of Recovery Act funds at www.recovery.gov and www.state.gov/recovery.

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**PLANNED RECOVERY ACT PROJECTS FOR
RIO GRANDE LEVEE REHABILITATION**

UPPER RIO GRANDE*

- West Levee – Hatch Siphon to Bignell Arroyo
- West Levee – Shalem Bridge in Doña Ana County to near Country Club Bridge in El Paso County (area at Mesilla Valley Bosque Park and immediately upstream and downstream from Country Club Bridge is being rehabilitated using non-Recovery Act funds)
- West Levee – at Anapra
- East Levee – Mesilla Dam to Vinton Bridge (area from near Fort Selden to Mesilla Dam is currently being rehabilitated using non-Recovery Act funds)
- East Levee/Canutillo Floodwall – Vinton Bridge to Borderland Bridge (design only)
- East Levee – Borderland Bridge to near Country Club Bridge (area immediately upstream from Country Club Bridge and downstream to Sunland Park Bridge is currently being rehabilitated using non-Recovery Act funds)
- East Levee – Rio Grande Power Plant to American Dam (design and planning only)
- U.S. Levee – Fabens area
- U.S. Levee – Fort Hancock area
- U.S. Levee – downstream from Ysleta-Zaragoza Port of Entry to Fort Quitman (geotechnical studies)

LOWER RIO GRANDE**

- U.S. Rio Grande Levee - Hidalgo Loop Levee Phase I and II
- U.S. Rio Grande Levee - Mission Levee and Culverts at Edinburg Pump
- U.S. Rio Grande Levee - Lateral A to Retamal Dam
- North Levee of the Main and North Floodways – Granjeño to Hidalgo-Cameron County line (design only from Baseline Road to county line)
- South Levee of the Main and North Floodways – start of floodway to Baseline Road
- Arroyo Colorado – Divisor Dike to Hidalgo-Cameron County line (design and potential construction)

* Deficient Rio Grande levees in El Paso County from International Dam to near the Ysleta-Zaragoza Port of Entry were raised by USIBWC in 2007.

**Deficient Rio Grande levees in Cameron County were raised by USIBWC in 2008. Other Rio Grande levee segments in Hidalgo County were addressed in 2008-2009 as part of the levee-wall project between Hidalgo County Drainage District #1, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the USIBWC.