



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
August 12, 2009

### **AUGUST 25 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS RIO GRANDE FLOOD CONTROL ISSUES**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), Val Verde County, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the Texas Water Development Board have scheduled a public meeting for Tuesday, August 25, 6:00 – 8:45 p.m. at the Val Verde County Community Center, 1690 Cienegas Road in Del Rio, Texas. The purpose of the meeting is to explain the operating criteria for Amistad Reservoir in the event of flood conditions, the potential for flooding in the floodplain, and emergency notification procedures. Regulations for construction in Vega Verde Subdivision and low-lying areas of Del Rio will also be discussed.

During flood conditions at Amistad Reservoir, the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, operates the international dam to release flood waters in accordance with established protocols. These releases may increase the risk of flooding in low-lying areas downstream. When flood releases were made from Amistad Dam in 2008, some parts of the Vega Verde Subdivision flooded. The USIBWC annually distributes flood warning notices to residents and communities to advise them of potential flooding along the Rio Grande. At the meeting, USIBWC staff will explain the release protocols for the dam and the potential areas of inundation.

The meeting will also include presentations about regulations restricting construction in the floodplain, public notification procedures in the event of a large release from Amistad Reservoir, and the National Flood Insurance Program.

Val Verde County residents and businesses located along the Rio Grande downstream from Amistad Reservoir are encouraged to attend. A complete meeting agenda is attached.

For more information:

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AGENDA PUBLIC MEETING  
Tuesday 25 August 2009, 6-8:45 p.m.  
1690 Cienegas Rd.  
Del Rio, Texas

Val Verde County, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Water Development Board, International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. and Mexico, U.S. Section

The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public on:

- 1) Regulations for construction in Vega Verde Subdivision and low lying areas of Del Rio, and
- 2) Amistad Reservoir operations during flood events, extent of flooding within the Rio Grande Flood Plain and emergency notification procedures.

6:00 PM                      Call to Order and Introductions (Mr. Roger Cerny, Risk Management Officer, Val Verde County)

6:10 PM                      Remarks from USIBWC (Mr. Al Riera, Principal Engineer)

**Construction in the Vega Verde and Border Lands Flood Plains**

6:15 PM                      State and county laws and regulations on construction in Vega Verde Subdivision , (Mr. Roger Cerny, Val Verde County, Risk Management Officer)

6:50 PM                      IBWC Policy on Flood Plain Construction (Mr. Brad Sargent, USIBWC Realty and Boundary Officer)

7:00-7:10 PM              Break

**Flood Issues**

7:10PM                      Texas Water Development Board—National Flood Insurance Program (Ms. Cheryl Flores, TWDB)

7:20PM                      **Amistad Reservoir Operations.** Brief overview of how water is released under normal conditions and Flood Operations Plan, TCEQ and IBWC (Mr. Steve Niemeyer, TCEQ, Mr. Werner Graham, USIBWC, Area Operations Manager Amistad Dam/Mr. Brad Sargent, IBWC, Realty and Boundary Officer) Inundation Map Slides. Low and High bands

7:40PM                      USIBWC Emergency Management Program (Mr. James Leiman, USIBWC Special Operations Chief)

8:00PM                      Val Verde County plans in the event of a large release from Amistad Reservoir due to dam operations or a dam failure: how the public will be notified. (Sheriff Joe Frank Martinez)

8:15PM                      Open forum for Questions and Discussion

8:45PM                      Adjourn