



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
September 27, 2016

RIO GRANDE RIPARIAN ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR PROJECT, BIRD HUNTING ALONG THE RIO GRANDE AND RIVER CHANNEL MAINTENANCE ON AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 13 PUBLIC MEETING IN LAS CRUCES, NM

Efforts to promote a sustainable and non-polluting Rio Grande corridor in Las Cruces, bird hunting along the Rio Grande, and work to remove sediment from the river will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Rio Grande Citizens Forum sponsored by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting takes place on Thursday, October 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Las Cruces City Hall, 700 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, NM 88001.

Carol McCall, a retired Planner with the City of Las Cruces, will discuss the Rio Grande Riparian Ecological Corridor Project, begun in 2000 through a Sustainable Development Challenge Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The project has three components: a comprehensive plan for development along an 11-mile corridor of the Rio Grande and two pilot projects consisting of construction of a 14-acre wetland and a 1.1-mile multi-use pathway. The Project seeks to create a guide for future sustainable development of the river corridor.

The Citizens Forum will also hear about bird hunting along the Rio Grande from Captain Ray Spears with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Captain Mike Matthews from New Mexico Game and Fish. The Rio Grande is a popular spot for bird hunters in the area. The

presentation will cover the migratory bird seasons, the areas where the USIBWC allows hunting on its lands, and enforcement issues that arise during the hunting season.

In other business, Flavio Apodaca with the USIBWC will give an update on the agency's de-silting activities in the Rio Grande. The USIBWC's Upper Rio Grande Project staff maintains 221 miles of flood control levees and floodways. An important maintenance activity is the grading and removal of sediment where arroyos flow into the Rio Grande and sediment removal within the river channel. This ongoing activity is to maintain efficient water deliveries to U.S. irrigation districts, municipalities, and Mexico, and to improve operations at the diversion dams in the area.

The USIBWC established the Rio Grande Citizens Forum in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of information regarding USIBWC activities on the Rio Grande between Percha Dam, New Mexico and Fort Quitman, Texas. It is designed to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, irrigation districts, municipalities, and others interested in the river. A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information may contact Shellie Muñoz at 915-832-4706, Shellie.Munoz@ibwc.gov.

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RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, October 13

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Las Cruces City Hall

Council Chambers

700 North Main Street*

Las Cruces, NM 88001-3512

- Welcome and Introductions – Jose Nuñez, Citizens Forum Co-Chair and Principal Engineer, USIBWC
- Rio Grande Corridor Project, Looking Back – Carol McCall, Planner, City of Las Cruces (Retired)
- Migratory Bird Hunting along the Rio Grande – Ray Spears, Captain Game Warden, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Mike Matthews, Captain Southwest Area Operations, New Mexico Game and Fish
- De-Silting Activities in the Rio Grande – Flavio Apodaca, Supervisory Engineering Technician, Upper Rio Grande Field Office, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions:** From El Paso, take I-10 west. Take exit 142 Valley Drive. Keep left at the fork in the ramp and continue onto Valley Drive. Travel about ¼ of a mile and veer right onto Main Street. Continue on Main about 2.4 miles to City Hall.

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 915-832-4706 or e-mail Shellie.Munoz@ibwc.gov