



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section



For immediate release
June 13, 2011

LEVEE CONSTRUCTION AND FEMA FLOOD MAPS ON AGENDA FOR JUNE 23 PUBLIC MEETING IN LAS CRUCES

Regional flood control issues 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 will take place on Thursday, June 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Doña Ana County Government Center, Room 113, 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

USIBWC Civil Engineer Andrea Glover will give an update on Rio Grande levee construction in El Paso County, Texas and in Hatch, the Mesilla Valley, and Sunland Park, New Mexico. The work is intended to comply with levee standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The USIBWC received \$220 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for rehabilitation of Rio Grande flood control levees in New Mexico and Texas. The purpose of the Recovery Act is to create and save jobs, promote economic recovery, and invest in infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits.

The Citizens Forum will also hear an update on the status of FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps being prepared for El Paso County, Texas and Doña Ana County, New Mexico. Jim Orwat of FEMA Region 6, Project Monitor for the Flood Map Modernization Project for El Paso and Doña Ana Counties, will discuss the mapping process that is currently underway. When finalized, the maps will determine flood insurance rates and requirements for area residents.

The Rio Grande Citizens Forum was established by the USIBWC in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of information regarding USIBWC activities on the Rio Grande between Percha Dam, NM and Fort Quitman, TX. 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.

For more information:

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RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, June 23, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Doña Ana County Government Center
Room 113
845 N. Motel Blvd.
Las Cruces, NM

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Carlos Peña, Principal Engineer, USIBWC, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Status Report on Rio Grande Flood Control Levee Construction Projects – Andrea Glover, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- Update on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Doña Ana and El Paso Counties – Jim Orwat, Project Monitor for the Flood Map Modernization Project for El Paso and Doña Ana Counties, FEMA Region 6
- Public Comment
- Recognition of Board Members
- 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 915-832-4175 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov