



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

For immediate release  
July 10, 2014

### **EL PASO DRAINAGE ISSUES, RIO GRANDE WATER QUALITY, AND BIRD HUNTING ON AGENDA FOR JULY 24 PUBLIC MEETING**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Rio Grande Citizens Forum on Thursday, July 24, 2014, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, at the USIBWC Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa Street, Building C, El Paso, TX 79902. The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related activities.

Matias Segura of URS Corporation will discuss a study to determine the interior drainage impacts in El Paso associated with the rehabilitation of the Rio Grande flood control levee from International Dam to Riverside Weir. The study uses a combination of detailed hydrologic and hydraulic modeling methods to identify areas where flooding exceeds one foot in depth. The products produced as part of this effort will be used in conjunction with other data to support the certification of the levee system's compliance with criteria established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and will also assist the City of El Paso in assessing and mitigating flood risk.

In other business, Christopher Canavan, Field Offices Team Leader for the Watershed Protection Section of the New Mexico Environment Department, will give an overview of the Paso Del Norte Watershed Based Plan: Mitigation Measures to Reduce Bacterial Pollution in the Rio Grande. The plan was recently submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Finally, USIBWC Natural Resources Specialist Elizabeth Verdecchia will discuss a plan to allow bird hunting along parts of the Rio Grande in New Mexico. In July 2013, the USIBWC published a Draft Environmental Assessment to analyze environmental and social impacts of allowing avian hunting on certain portions of USIBWC property in the Rio Grande Canalization Project in Sierra and Doña Ana Counties, New Mexico. During the 30-day public comment period, which ended August 31, 2013, USIBWC received voluminous public comments, both in support of and in opposition to the proposed hunting policy. As a result of the public comments, USIBWC will be modifying the original plan in order to remove more populated parts of the river corridor from the proposed hunting areas. In the Final Environmental Assessment, USIBWC proposes to authorize migratory and game bird hunting along 30 miles of the Rio Grande in southern New Mexico. Bird hunting is already permitted along parts of the Rio Grande in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Texas.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information may contact 915-832-4706 or [shellie.munoz@ibwc.gov](mailto:shellie.munoz@ibwc.gov).

Press inquiries are directed to:

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**RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Thursday, July 24, 2014**  
**USIBWC Headquarters**  
**4171 N. Mesa Street, The Commons, Building C**  
**El Paso, TX 79902**  
**6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions – Carlos Peña, USIBWC, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Interior Drainage Analysis for El Paso – Matias Segura III, PE, CFM, Senior Advisor, URS Corporation
- The Paso Del Norte Watershed Based Plan: Mitigation Measures to Reduce Bacterial Pollution in the Rio Grande – Christopher M. Canavan, New Mexico Field Offices Team Leader, Watershed Protection Section, Surface Water Quality Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department
- Final Environmental Assessment for Avian Hunting in the Rio Grande Canalization Project – Elizabeth Verdecchia, Natural Resources Specialist, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- 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 information, call 915-832-4706 or email [shellie.munoz@ibwc.gov](mailto:shellie.munoz@ibwc.gov).