



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section



For immediate release
August 6, 2013

RIO GRANDE WATER SUPPLY AND FLOOD CONTROL ON AGENDA FOR AUGUST 14 PUBLIC MEETING IN MERCEDES

Mexico's Rio Grande water deliveries to the United States and work to upgrade Rio Grande flood control levees will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum, an outreach program of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 14, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the USIBWC office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas. The Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum was established to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities and related issues in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

USIBWC Principal Engineer Carlos Peña will present an update on Mexico's Rio Grande water deliveries to the United States. Under the 1944 Water Treaty, Mexico provides water to the United States from six tributaries to the Rio Grande. During the current water delivery period, Mexico has incurred a deficit in those deliveries. Mr. Peña will provide the latest information about Mexico's water deliveries and efforts being undertaken to reduce the deficit.

In other business, USIBWC Civil Engineer Ramon F. Navarro will give a presentation about the USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande levee rehabilitation projects in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, Texas. The presentation will provide an update on the status of levees under construction and will cover projects planned for the future. The USIBWC is rehabilitating its levees to meet standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Communities protected by levee systems accredited by FEMA benefit from both enhanced flood protection and better rates on flood insurance. Property owners with federally-backed mortgages in areas not protected by accredited levees could face a mandate to purchase flood insurance.

The levee construction is being carried out, in part, with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. 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. USIBWC Recovery Act expenditures in New Mexico and Texas have already created or preserved an estimated 3145 jobs.

A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, August 14, 2013

3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

USIBWC Conference Room

325 Golf Course Road*

Mercedes, TX 78570

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Rodolfo Montero, USIBWC, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Rio Grande Water Deliveries under the 1944 Water Treaty - Carlos Peña, Principal Engineer, USIBWC
- Lower Rio Grande Levee Rehabilitation Projects in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties – Ramon F. Navarro, Civil Engineer, 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 more information, call 915-832-4175.

***Directions:** From Expressway 83, exit Mile 2 W. Travel south for approximately 1.5 miles to Golf Course Road. Turn left. The USIBWC is the first building on your left.