



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

For immediate release  
September 24, 2010

### **DIVERSIONS INTO U.S. INTERIOR FLOODWAY BEGIN**

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, has begun diverting Rio Grande flow into the U.S. interior floodway at Anzalduas Dam south of Mission, Texas in accordance with longstanding international agreements. Water began flowing into the floodway at 10:15 a.m. on September 24. The initial volume was only 346 cubic feet per second (10 cubic meters per second) although this will increase in the coming days. Still, the amount of water in the floodway is expected to reach only about one-tenth of the peak flow that was experienced in July. By diverting water into the U.S. interior floodway as well as into the Mexican interior floodway downstream at Retamal Dam, the Commission is able to limit Rio Grande flow at Brownsville, Texas-Matamoros, Tamaulipas.

The U.S. interior floodway system includes the Banker Floodway, Main Floodway, North Floodway, and Arroyo Colorado in Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties. Water is not currently expected to reach the North Floodway although this could change in the coming days.

River flow is elevated due to releases from the Commission's Falcon Dam, located at Falcon Heights, Texas-Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas, coupled with inflows from Mexican tributaries downstream from Falcon Dam. The Commission is currently releasing water from Falcon Dam at the rate of 15,000 cubic feet per second (425 cubic meters per second). Flow at Rio Grande City remains below flood stage.

Residents in the affected region who are concerned about flood conditions should monitor National Weather Service warnings and forecasts for information about any flood watches, warnings, and advisories that could be issued for the Rio Grande or local communities.

For more information:

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