



THE BOUNDARY MARKER

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DRUSINA SWORN IN AS U.S. COMMISSIONER

Edward Drusina was sworn in as United States Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, during a ceremony on January 19 at agency Headquarters in El Paso, Texas. Commissioner Drusina was appointed to the post by President Barack Obama on January 15.

“The Commission must strive for Excellence through Teamwork,” said Commissioner Drusina.

A civil engineer from El Paso, Texas, Commissioner Drusina has extensive executive experience as an engineer in the private and public sectors. Most recently, he worked as Area Director for Paragon Project Resources, Inc. Prior to that, he was President of OMNI Construction Services, LLC and held executive positions with Moreno Cardenas, Inc. (MCi). While with MCi, he served as construction manager for the off-site infrastructure for the world’s largest inland desalination plant recently constructed in Fort Bliss, Texas.

He also worked for the City of El Paso for seven years as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Municipal Services and Director of

Public Works where he oversaw eight departments and divisions responsible for streets, solid waste, engineering, environmental services, building permits and inspections, fleet maintenance, facilities and special projects, and facilities maintenance. From 1998-2004, he represented the City of El Paso on the Far West Texas Water Planning Group.

He also has 20 years of federal experience, holding engineering positions at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona and at Fort Bliss, Texas, where he worked as Chief of Design Br. AA for the Directorate of Public Works and Logistics, and as Deputy Director of the Source Selection Evaluation Board.

Commissioner Drusina holds a Bachelor of Science degree

in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso, is a graduate of the Army Management Staff College, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas. He was named Texas Public Works Association Public Works Director of the Year for 2003 and was selected Federal Engineer of the Year by the United States Army – Training and Doctrine Command for 1997.



Commissioner Drusina was sworn in by U.S. District Judge Philip R. Martinez.



RECOVERY ACT LEVEE PROJECTS PROGRESS

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has awarded \$149 million in contracts for Rio Grande levee rehabilitation out of \$220 million appropriated to the agency in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). Contracts for the remainder of the funds will be awarded by the end of September 2010. 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.

“Implementing the Recovery Act levee projects is a priority for us,” said U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina. “Our contractors have already made significant progress in some areas and we will issue contracts soon for the remaining work.”

Construction of Recovery Act levee improvements began in 2009 in Hidalgo County, Texas in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. In 2010, construction was initiated in the Upper Rio Grande in El Paso County, Texas and Doña Ana County, New Mexico following the award of three construction contracts.

A contract in the amount of \$26.1 million was awarded to Lakeshore Engineering Services, Inc. of Detroit, Michigan to construct 32 miles of levee improvements in Doña Ana County from Shalem Bridge to Vado Bridge. A contract in the amount of \$18.8 million was awarded to Milestone Excavation, Inc. of Dolores, Colorado for construction of 29 miles of levee improvements between Vado Bridge and Borderland Bridge in Doña Ana and El Paso Counties. Milestone Excavation was also awarded a \$5.5 million contract for construction of levee improvements near Hatch, New Mexico.

In the Lower Rio Grande, construction contracts were previously awarded for levees along the Banker Floodway, Main Floodway, North Floodway, Arroyo Colorado, and along the Rio Grande from east of the City of Hidalgo to south of Donna.



Construction is progressing on Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project levees.

The USIBWC is raising levee height and making structural improvements in compliance with standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to protect against the 100-year river flood. Construction of some levee segments will be completed this year, with the rest completed by 2011. The Recovery Act levee work is in addition to improvements along the river levee previously completed in both the Upper and Lower Rio Grande by USIBWC crews and Hidalgo County.

The USIBWC provides regular public updates on its planning and spending of Recovery Act funds. Detailed information about the agency’s Recovery Act work is available to the public at <http://www.ibwc.gov/Recovery/Index.html>



ASARCO CLEANUP FUNDS AWARDED TO USIBWC

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has been awarded \$19 million for environmental cleanup as part of the settlement of the bankruptcy case for Asarco, a copper smelter that operated for a century in El Paso, Texas. The smelter, which ceased operations a decade ago, is located next to the U.S. Section's American Dam/Carlos Marin Field Office. Smelter operations caused widespread lead and arsenic contamination in the community.

The USIBWC will use settlement funds



The American Dam is adjacent to the Asarco smelter's smokestacks.

to clean up contaminated soil at the American Dam/Carlos Marin Field Office complex. Additionally, the funds will address soil and groundwater remediation as part of a project to rehabilitate the American Canal — the canal that conveys irrigation water and a portion of El Paso's drinking water. The USIBWC plans to reconstruct the aging canal but to do so it must address contaminated soil and groundwater along the structure.

In addition to the \$19 million for USIBWC, Asarco has agreed to spend \$52 million to clean up the smelter site itself.

WATER DELIVERIES BEGIN

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission on March 8 began Rio Grande water deliveries to Mexico in accordance with the Convention of 1906. The treaty specifies that Mexico is allotted an annual volume of 60,000 acre-feet of Rio Grande water for irrigation in the Juarez Valley except in the event of extraordinary drought or accident to the conveyance system in the United States.

Projections are that Mexico will receive a full 60,000 acre-foot allotment in 2010 but the final volume won't be known until there is an assessment of the impact of snowmelt and spring runoff on the reservoirs. The Rio Grande water supply for southern New Mexico and the greater El Paso, Texas-Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua region is dependent on snowpack in the mountains of New Mexico and Colorado, which melts in the spring to

restore water levels at Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs in New Mexico. The U.S. Section conducts monthly coordination meetings with the Mexican Section, Mexican irrigation districts, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to discuss runoff and storage conditions in the two reservoirs that determine the volume of water available for users.

Reclamation manages Elephant Butte and Caballo Dams to store and release water to downstream users. At El Paso-Ciudad Juarez, the International Boundary and Water Commission operates two small dams – American Dam and International Dam – to divert water into the U.S. and Mexican irrigation canal systems respectively. Water deliveries typically continue into September or October and then are halted for several months during the fall and winter.

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Please send us your comments about how we can improve our quarterly newsletter. Mail your comments to Sally Spener at the U.S. Section address or send them via e-mail to: sally.spener@ibwc.gov.



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