



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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PRESIDIO LEVEE REPAIR BEGINS

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has begun to repair Rio Grande flood control levees at Presidio, Texas that were damaged during the 2008 flood. A contract in the amount of \$2 million was awarded February 10, 2009 to Grimmert Brothers, Inc. of Snyder, Texas for heavy equipment and personnel to perform the work.

The repairs are being undertaken along a 2-mile segment of the levee from Cibolo Creek to the railroad bed adjacent to the developed part of Presidio. This portion of the levee system is critical for protecting the town from future Rio Grande floods. The work will involve repairs to levees where floodwaters during September and October 2008 caused significant erosion. The repair will consist of placing riprap along the riverside slope of the levee in the eroded areas.

The contractor began onsite mobilization February 11, 2009 and is scheduled to complete the work by no later than June 1, 2009. All contracted rehabilitation work will be supervised by USIBWC personnel to ensure the quality of work performed is in accordance with the agency's standards.

“Our plan is to complete these emergency repairs prior to the start of the flood season,” said U.S. Commissioner C.W. “Bill” Ruth. “This is the first phase of our plan to rehabilitate Presidio’s levees.”

Emergency repairs could not be initiated until saturated soils and levees thoroughly dried out. The USIBWC has been conducting various assessments and analyses as part of the

emergency repair effort and in preparation for a long-term levee rehabilitation project. These efforts include extensive geotechnical assessments of the levees conducted by the USIBWC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and independent engineering experts to identify areas of concern. The work also includes intensive geotechnical investigations involving drilling bore holes in the levees and analyzing the geophysical characteristics of the levees to pinpoint areas of weakness. The results of these analyses are considered in designing both immediate levee repairs and long-term rehabilitation.

In 2008, Congress appropriated \$37.5 million to USIBWC for Presidio levee work. The USIBWC is also coordinating with the Mexican Section of the Commission for long-term improvements to the flood control project that protects both Presidio and its sister city of Ojinaga, Chihuahua. Levees in both cities suffered significant damage during the 2008 flood.

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