



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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USIBWC COMPLETES ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY OF RIO GRANDE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Long-term Improvements to the USIBWC Rio Grande Flood Control Projects along the Texas-Mexico Border. The ROD, signed by U.S. Commissioner Carlos Marin, selects the Multipurpose Project Management Alternative for implementation.

“By selecting this alternative, it will be easier for us to develop projects that benefit both flood control and the environment,” said Commissioner Marin. “It will also enable us to complete projects more quickly because many of the environmental impacts have already been studied.”

The decision affects three Rio Grande flood control projects in Texas: the Rectification Project extending for 84 river miles in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, the Presidio-Ojinaga Flood Control Project for 13 river miles near Presidio, and the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project that extends 186 river miles from the town of Peñitas to the Gulf of Mexico and includes 120 miles of interior floodways. The ROD will guide evaluation of site-specific environmental studies of future proposed changes to those projects for the next 20 years.

Under the selected alternative, the USIBWC will continue to improve flood control features along the Rio Grande while adhering to mandates to deliver water to authorized users and stabilize the international boundary. Multipurpose uses would include regional initiatives for improvement of habitat and environmental conditions proposed by federal agencies, local governments, and other organizations.

The USIBWC selected the Multipurpose Project Management alternative after conducting three public hearings and considering written comments from various agencies, organizations, and individuals. The Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement can be viewed on the USIBWC web page at:
http://www.ibwc.state.gov/Organization/Environmental/reports_studies.html#EIS by selecting the link *Final PEIS on Improvements to the USIBWC Rio Grande Flood Control Projects along the Texas-Mexico Border of 1/2008* under the title "Rio Grande".

For more information:

Sally Spener
915-832-4175
sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov