



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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USIBWC ACHIEVES MILESTONES IN PRESIDIO LEVEE REPAIR PROJECT

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has completed emergency repairs to one segment of the Rio Grande flood control levee at Presidio, Texas and is initiating construction on another segment. The levees were damaged during the 2008 flood.

Emergency repairs were completed April 16 by USIBWC contractor Grimmett Brothers, Inc. of Snyder, Texas 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. To repair erosion from last year's flood, the contractor placed and compacted embankment material on the levee. Work was completed more than one month ahead of schedule.

Work on another levee segment upstream from the international bridge has just begun. A contract for repair of the 3000-foot segment was awarded on April 29 to Menendez-Donnell & Assoc., Inc. of Houston, Texas. The project consists of construction of a slurry trench, an underground wall to prevent water seepage from undermining the levee. During the 2008 flood, seepage of floodwaters to the land side of the levee was a significant problem. Work is scheduled to be completed by June 9, 2009.

“Our goal has always been to complete emergency repairs prior to the start of the flood season,” said U.S. Commissioner C.W. “Bill” Ruth. “We are well on our way to achieving that goal.”

Emergency repairs could not be initiated until saturated soils and levees thoroughly dried out. The segment upstream from the international bridge then required a seepage analysis and design. The USIBWC has been conducting extensive geotechnical investigations and assessments as part of the emergency repair effort and in preparation for a long-term levee rehabilitation project.

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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