



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
July 3, 2008

LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS, REPORT ON NATURAL DISASTERS ALONG THE BORDER ON AGENDA FOR JULY 16 PUBLIC MEETING

An update on the status of Lower Rio Grande levee improvements will be on the agenda of the next public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens' Forum (LRGCF). The LRGCF was established by the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The meeting will take place Wednesday, July 16, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the USIBWC office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas.

The USIBWC began construction in January to raise the height of United States Rio Grande flood control levees in Cameron County. The work is needed to meet FEMA criteria to provide adequate protection from the 100-year flood. Patrick Daize, Lower Rio Grande Operations Manager for the USIBWC, will give an update on the status of this work. In Hidalgo County, levee improvements are being undertaken by the Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 under a Memorandum of Understanding with the USIBWC.

In other business, Cameron County Commissioner John Wood, a member of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB), will discuss the findings and recommendations of a recent GNEB report, "Natural Disasters and the Environment along the U.S.-Mexico Border." The report makes a number of recommendations to address the effects of natural disasters on the

region's environment, human health, wildlife and ecosystems, and specific population groups. Flooding is one type of natural disaster discussed in the report, a topic of particular concern in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The purpose of the GNEB is to advise the President and Congress on "good neighbor" environmental and infrastructure practices along the U.S. border with Mexico. USIBWC Commissioner Carlos Marin is a federal agency representative on the board.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information may contact the USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande Project Office at 956-565-3150 or the Public Affairs Office at sallyspener@ibwc.gov.

For more information:

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LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS' FORUM

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

USIBWC Conference Room

325 Golf Course Road

Mercedes, TX 78570

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Patrick Daize, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Natural Disasters and the Environment along the U.S.-Mexico Border, 11th Report of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB) – John Wood, Cameron County Commissioner and GNEB Board Member
- Update on Lower Rio Grande Levee Improvements – Patrick Daize, Lower Rio Grande Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information, call 956-565-3150.