



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
September 26, 2008

UPDATE ON RIO GRANDE FLOOD CONDITIONS

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) continues to monitor conditions in the Rio Grande basin from Presidio, Texas to the Gulf of Mexico due to flood conditions or potential flood conditions. The Rio Grande has been in flood at Presidio, TX-Ojinaga, Chihuahua since early September. Although the river has dropped considerably at Presidio-Ojinaga, high flows are now affecting other downstream locations.

Inflows to Amistad International Dam and Reservoir at Del Rio, TX-Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila have increased significantly. To handle this increased flow, releases from the dam were increased to 500 cubic meters per second (17,657 cubic feet per second) on September 22. The Commission expects levels at the dam to be slightly above conservation capacity by the weekend of September 27-28. However, there are currently no plans to increase releases from the dam beyond the current rate of 500 cms. The USIBWC has advised the community that releases of this volume cause flooding of Vega Verde Road downstream of the dam. On average, releases of this magnitude occur every three to five years.

Farther downstream at the Commission's Falcon International Dam and Reservoir at Falcon Heights, Texas-Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas, storage was at 57% of conservation capacity. Levels at Falcon are expected to increase as flows from upstream enter the reservoir. Current projections indicate that Falcon Reservoir will remain below conservation capacity and no flood releases are anticipated.

Although Falcon Dam is expected to contain all upstream flows from the Rio Grande, the Lower Rio Grande Valley downstream of Falcon could be affected by increased inflows from the San Juan River, a Mexican tributary that enters the Rio Grande at Rio Grande City, TX – Ciudad Camargo, Tamaulipas. Above-normal flow is expected in the Rio Grande from the confluence with the San Juan River to the Gulf of Mexico starting the week of September 29. However, flood conditions are not expected.

The USIBWC is coordinating closely with the National Weather Service and Mexican authorities regarding precipitation forecasts and reservoir operations. Flood conditions in the Presidio-Ojinaga area are expected to continue well into October. Residents concerned about Rio Grande flood conditions should monitor National Weather Service forecasts and any announcements from local emergency managers.

For more information:

Sally Spener
915-832-4175
915-799-9928
sallyspener@ibwc.gov