



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section



For immediate release
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BORDERLAND BRIDGE REOPENS

Borderland Bridge across the Rio Grande in El Paso's Upper Valley will reopen on the morning of January 18 after being closed for nine days due to Rio Grande levee construction. The bridge is opening earlier than expected due to the efficient work of construction crews.

The bridge was closed so that automatic flood control gates could be installed at the bridge. The construction was undertaken by Ultimate Concrete under contract to the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) as part of a project to rehabilitate Rio Grande flood control levees between Borderland Bridge in El Paso, Texas and the Rio Grande Power Plant in Sunland Park, New Mexico.

The work is being carried out with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The purpose of the Recovery Act is to create and save jobs, promote economic recovery, and invest in infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits. The USIBWC received \$220 million in Recovery Act appropriations for levee rehabilitation in New Mexico and Texas. The funds have already created or preserved an estimated 2300 jobs.

The USIBWC is rehabilitating 122 miles of Rio Grande flood control levees between Hatch, New Mexico and Fort Hancock, Texas. The work is intended to bring the levees into compliance with standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Communities protected by FEMA-accredited levees are not required to purchase flood insurance. USIBWC is also constructing levee improvements in Presidio, Texas and South Texas.

For more information:

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