



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
January 29, 2020

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS IN HIDALGO COUNTY, FLOOD CONTROL MAINTENANCE, AND ILLEGAL DUMPING WILL BE DISCUSSED AT FEBRUARY 12 MEETING IN MERCEDES

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (LRGCF) for **Wednesday, February 12, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the USIBWC office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas.** The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community regarding Commission projects and related activities.

Eric Davila, P.E., Chief Development Engineer, Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA), will be speaking on the HCRMA's long-range plans to develop, finance, and construct projects for the major transportation improvements along the southmost reach of the United States and Mexico. Due to the rapidly expanding local population coupled with increased transient travelers from the strong binational trade, unique pressure to expand our transportation infrastructure is on the rise.

Hidalgo County Deputy Constables Leobardo Ortiz and Sandy Alonzo, Precinct #2 will discuss the impacts of illegal dumping on the levees. Ortiz and Alonzo will discuss citations and arrests for those illegally dumping trash.

Frank Martinez, Assistant Area Operations Manager, Lower Rio Grande Field Office, USIBWC, will give an update on USIBWC operations and projects in the Rio Grande Valley.

Normal operations include mowing the levees and floodplain in the Main Floodway and the Arroyo Colorado Floodway to allow proper conveyance of waters within the USIBWC floodway. Maintenance crews are desilting lateral drains in the North Floodway for the purpose of allowing drainage flows to be conveyed into the pilot channel within the USIBWC floodway. Maintenance crews are also performing maintenance on 10 flood gates located on different roadway crossings along the floodway. The work is ongoing and is projected to be completed prior to hurricane season. An update will also be given on the yearly maintenance of gates at Anzalduas Dam, which is projected to begin next month. Located near Mission, Anzalduas Dam forms a critical part of the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project infrastructure by diverting Rio Grande flood flows to the U.S. interior floodway to control river flooding.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 956-565-3150 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.

News media may contact:

Lori Kuczanski
Office: (915) 832-4106
Cell: (915) 494-6027
Lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov

LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, February 12, 2020
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
USIBWC Conference Room
325 Golf Course Road*
Mercedes, TX 78570

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Omar Rios, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority Long-Range Plan** – Eric Davila, P.E., Chief Development Engineer, Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority
- **Illegal Dumping on the Levees** – Hidalgo County Deputy Constables Leobardo Ortiz and Sandy Alonzo, Precinct #2
- **Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project Operations and Maintenance Update** – Frank Martinez, Assistant Area Operations Manager, Lower Rio Grande Field Office, USIBWC
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

*Directions: From Expressway 83, exit Mile 2 W. Travel south for approx. 1.5 miles to Golf Course Rd. Turn left. The USIBWC is the first building on your left.

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For information, call 956-565-3150 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov