



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
March 10, 2021

HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL EXPANSION PROJECT AND THE ARROYO COLORADO VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT MARCH 24 MEETING VIA WEBINAR

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, March 24 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. CDT via webinar**. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community regarding Commission projects and related activities.

Javier Mendez, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Harlingen, will discuss the Arroyo Colorado Trail Extension. The extension will increase the length of the existing Hike and Bike Trail by an additional 1.6 miles and will run to the west of I-69 meandering along the Arroyo Colorado just short of Dixieland Road. Mendez will discuss the construction plan and the funding partnership for the project.

Joel Saldivar, USIBWC Civil Engineering Technician, will give an overview of the history of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed with the USIBWC flood control mission. Saldivar will discuss the recently awarded \$1.2 million contract for vegetation removal and restoration of the Arroyo Colorado and the goals of the project. The contract will address vegetation maintenance required over a 6.3-mile segment between Business 77 to Cemetery Road in Harlingen and Cameron County, Texas to help restore the Arroyo Colorado's flood conveyance

capacity. The project consists of removing problem vegetation along the arroyo overbanks and replacing it with native vegetation to restore the riparian corridor.

To join our Teams Meeting, click [here](#). Click on “Join Meeting.” If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the Join link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning. Or join by phone: Call- in number: **915-320-4718** | Conference ID: **555 344 17#**

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting [here](#). Look for the links for the 3/24/2021 meeting. If you would like to speak during public comment, then please sign up ahead of time by contacting Lori Kuczanski at lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov or 915-494-6027 by noon on March 24.

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
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Lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov

LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. CDT

To join our Teams Meeting, go to our web page:

<https://go.usa.gov/xsWRT> and click on “Join Meeting”. If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the Join link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning.

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Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** –Melisa Gonzalez, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Arroyo Colorado Hike and Bike Trail Extension Update**—Javier Mendez, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Harlingen
- **Arroyo Colorado Vegetation Management Project to Improve Flood Protection**—Joel Saldivar, USIBWC Civil Engineering Technician
- **Public Comment** (To make public comment, RSVP to Lori Kuczanski, Public Affairs Officer, lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov by noon on March 24)
- **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 information, call 956-565-3159 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov