



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
March 28, 2019

### **WATER QUALITY REPORT AND DE-SILTING ACTIVITIES ALONG THE RIO GRANDE ON AGENDA FOR APRIL 11 PUBLIC MEETING IN LAS CRUCES**

The Rio Grande Citizens Forum (RGCF) of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will discuss the El Paso water quality report, and the Rio Grande de-silting projects completed during the non-irrigation season. The meeting will take place on **Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Las Cruces City Hall, 700 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88001.** The Rio Grande Citizens Forum was established to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters.

Ruben Rodriguez, Water Supply Manager, El Paso Water, will give an overview of what resources make up the water supply for El Paso, what treatment processes are used, and what safeguards exist to ensure that El Paso Water supplies their customers with high-quality water. He will discuss the chemical make-up of water throughout the city and discuss some of the chemical analyses that are run at the plants, the main lab and contract labs.

Rosie Montes, Area Operations Manager, Upper Rio Grande Field Office, USIBWC, will give a presentation on the reasons for removing sediment or silt from the Rio Grande, and current progress. The desilting is primarily performed during the non-irrigation season (normally between September and March) when the river bed is at its driest. Desilting the Rio Grande is essential to allow maximum water flows from Caballo Dam to Fort Quitman, downstream towards Presidio, Texas and beyond. It is also

essential to eliminate any potential flooding should flows be obstructed or diverted away from the normal river alignment and facilitates delivery of Rio Grande water to Mexico in accordance with a 1906 treaty.

This fiscal year desilting began in October 2018 in the vicinities of Canutillo and Shalem Colony Bridges followed by the El Paso and Fort Hancock areas. As of mid-March, over 200, 000 cubic yards have been removed and it is expected that over 400,000 cubic yards will be removed by the end of September 2019.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact 915-832-4106 or the Public Affairs Office at [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov).

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## **RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM**

**Thursday, April 11, 2019**

**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Las Cruces City Hall**

**700 North Main Street \***

**Las Cruces, NM 88001**

### **Agenda**

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Rosie Montes, Area Operations Manager, Upper Rio Grande Field Office, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **El Paso Water Quality Report** – Ruben Rodriguez, Water Supply Manager, El Paso Water
- **USIBWC De-Silting Activities for Fiscal Year 2019** – Rosie Montes, Area Operations Manager, Upper Rio Grande Field Office, USIBWC
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

**\*Directions:** From El Paso, take I-10 west. Take exit 142 Valley Drive. Keep left at the fork in the ramp and continue onto Valley Drive. Travel about ¼ of a mile and veer right onto Main Street. Continue on Main about 2.4 miles to City Hall.

*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 915-832-4106 or email [Lori.Kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:Lori.Kuczanski@ibwc.gov)