



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section



For immediate release

April 9, 2013

REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS ON AGENDA FOR APRIL 17 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL PASO

City of El Paso stormwater control projects and Rio Grande levee construction will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Rio Grande Citizens Forum, an outreach program of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place Wednesday, April 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at USIBWC Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa Street, Building C, El Paso, Texas.

Gonzalo Cedillos, Stormwater Engineering Manager for the El Paso Public Service Board's Stormwater Utility will discuss stormwater capital accomplishments and operations achievements. In the five years since it was established, the Stormwater Utility has built over \$45 million in flood control projects, including 54 major works and 50 localized flooding projects. The Stormwater Utility has also worked aggressively on maintenance of public drainage structures, helping the City and its citizens better prepare to manage hazards from a significant storm event.

USIBWC Civil Engineer Andrea Glover will give a presentation about Rio Grande levee rehabilitation projects in El Paso County, Texas and in Hatch, the Mesilla Valley, and Sunland Park, New Mexico. The presentation will provide an update on the status of levees under construction and will cover projects planned for the future. The USIBWC is rehabilitating its levees to meet standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Communities protected by levee systems accredited by FEMA benefit from both enhanced flood

protection and better rates on flood insurance. Property owners with federally-backed mortgages in areas not protected by accredited levees could face a mandate to purchase flood insurance. The levee construction is being carried out, in part, 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. USIBWC Recovery Act expenditures in New Mexico and Texas have already created or preserved an estimated 2894 jobs.

The Rio Grande Citizens Forum was established by the USIBWC in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of information regarding USIBWC activities on the Rio Grande between Percha Dam, New Mexico and Fort Quitman, Texas. It is designed to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, irrigation districts, municipalities, and others interested in the river. A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, April 17, 2013
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
USIBWC Headquarters
4171 N. Mesa St., The Commons, Building C*
El Paso, TX 79902

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Carlos Peña, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Stormwater Capital Accomplishments and Operations Achievements – Gonzalo Cedillos, P.E., Stormwater Engineering Manager, El Paso Public Service Board – Stormwater Utility
- Construction Update of Levee Projects in Doña Ana County and El Paso County - Andrea Glover, P.E., Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions:** From I-10, exit Executive Center Blvd. Go east to Mesa Street. Turn right on Mesa. The Commons office buildings are on the right.

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 915-832-4175 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov