



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
June 24, 2016

RIO GRANDE LEVEE PROJECTS AND FERAL SWINE CONCERNS ON AGENDA FOR JULY 14 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL PASO

Rio Grande flood control and concerns associated with feral swine will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Rio Grande Citizens Forum, a program of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place on **Thursday, July 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** at the **USIBWC Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa Street, The Commons, Building C, El Paso, TX 79902.**

USIBWC Lead Civil Engineer Isela Canava will give a presentation on Rio Grande levee rehabilitation projects in El Paso County, Texas and Doña Ana County, 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). The presentation will also describe the status of the levee certification and accreditation process, which requires USIBWC to submit documentation to FEMA about its levees.

In other business, Dr. Kenneth Waldrup, Zoonosis Control Veterinarian for the Texas Department of State Health Services, will present an overview of concerns about feral swine, explaining what feral swine are, the geographic distribution of feral swine in Texas, including those in the greater El Paso area, the diseases they can carry, and the environmental damage they can do.

The Citizens Forum will also hear from USIBWC Chief Administrative Officer Diana Forti, who will discuss USIBWC Resources to Support the Mission.

The USIBWC established the Rio Grande Citizens Forum 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

Thursday, July 14, 2016

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

USIBWC Headquarters

4171 N. Mesa Street

The Commons, Building C*

El Paso, TX 79902

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Walton Low, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Overview of Concerns about Feral Swine – Dr. Kenneth Waldrup, Regional Zoonosis Control Veterinarian, Texas Department of State Health Services
- Overview of USIBWC Resources to Support the Mission – Diana Forti, Chief Administrative Officer, USIBWC
- Upper Rio Grande Levee Rehabilitation Projects in El Paso County, Texas and Doña Ana County, New Mexico – Isela F. Canava, Lead 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 915-832-4706 or e-mail shellie.munoz@ibwc.gov