



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
June 27, 2019

UPDATE ON PRIVATE GATE ON FEDERAL PROPERTY

In early June, a private organization, We Build the Wall, built a gate in Sunland Park, NM near El Paso, TX on federal land of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), a government agency. We Build the Wall constructed the gate without permission from the USIBWC and then secured the gate in a closed position. However, according to a review requested by USIBWC Commissioner Jayne Harkins, We Build the Wall did not lock the gate closed as had previously been reported. The private gate blocks a levee road owned by the U.S. Government. After requests to We Build the Wall to open the private gate, the USIBWC on June 10 forced the gate open and secured it in an open position using a chain and lock. For security reasons, the gate is closed and locked at night. The gate is unlocked during the day so that USIBWC employees can conduct maintenance and operations at American Dam, a critical structure for delivering Rio Grande water for use by El Paso residents and by American and Mexican farmers.

We Build the Wall submitted an initial permit application to the USIBWC to install the gate on the levee road on June 2. In response to a USIBWC request for additional information, We Build the Wall submitted supplemental material on June 25, which is currently under review.

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