



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
June 27, 2019

RIO GRANDE WATER QUALITY REPORT AND RIVER MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES ON AGENDA FOR JULY 11 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL PASO

The Rio Grande Citizens Forum (RGCF) of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will discuss Rio Grande water quality at an upcoming public meeting. The meeting will take place on **Thursday, July 11, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Canutillo Independent School District, 7965 Arcraft Road, El Paso, Texas 79932.** The Rio Grande Citizens Forum was established to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters.

Leslie Grijalva, Environmental Protection Specialist, USIBWC Texas Clean Rivers Program, will discuss the water quality of the Rio Grande in the Upper Rio Grande in Texas. The USIBWC Texas Clean Rivers program collects water quality information throughout the Rio Grande Basin. Routine monitoring has shown that bacteria continues to exceed limits in the El Paso area, and Clean Rivers Program staff will be discussing bacteria issues. Ms. Grijalva will also be discussing salinity, monitoring activities, outreach activities, and any projects in the Rio Grande affecting water quality.

The Board will also hear from Gilbert Anaya, Division Chief, Environmental Management Division, USIBWC, who will discuss the 10-year implementation of the Record of Decision and future activities for the Rio Grande Canalization Project, a 106-mile reach of the Rio Grande from Percha Dam, NM to El Paso, TX that is managed by the USIBWC.

In 2009, USIBWC signed the *Record of Decision for River Management Alternatives for the Rio Grande Canalization Project*. The ROD committed the USIBWC to continuing the

mission of flood control and water deliveries of the RGCP while implementing environmental measures that would enable the sustainable management of the river corridor over a ten-year period.

The ROD commitments included levee improvements, elimination of grazing leases, implementation of 553 acres of habitat restoration and 1,983 acres of managed grasslands, development of an Environmental Water Transaction Program to provide water for restoration, updating the River Management Plan, development of a channel maintenance monitoring program, mitigation measures for construction and management, and adaptive management.

Mr. Anaya will discuss USIBWC ROD activities during the ten-year implementation timeframe and USIBWC's future commitments for management of the river corridor and maintenance of the ROD activities, which are documented in the River Management Plan. USIBWC also has two Draft Environmental Assessments for future projects within the river corridor that are open for public comment which will be discussed.

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.

Lori Kuczanski

(915) 832-4106

Lori.Kuczanski@ibwc.gov

RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, July 11, 2019
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Canutillo Independent School District
7965 Artcraft Road *
El Paso, Texas 79932

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Blanca Trout, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Water Quality in the Upper Rio Grande: Annual Water Quality Update and Basin Advisory Meeting**—Leslie Grijalva, Environmental Protection Specialist, USIBWC Texas Clean Rivers Program
- **10-Year Implementation of the Record of Decision and Future Activities for the Rio Grande Canalization Project**—Gilbert Anaya, Division Chief, Environmental Management Division, USIBWC
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

***Directions:** Take I-10 to exit 8, TX-178/Paseo del Norte/Artcraft Road. Turn west on Artcraft to the Canutillo Independent School District.

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 e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov