



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
June 28, 2017

### **RIO GRANDE WATER QUALITY AND BOUNDARY PRESERVATION PROJECT ON AGENDA FOR JULY 13 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 13, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the USIBWC**

**Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa Street, The Commons, Building C, El Paso, Texas 79902.** 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 Rio Grande water quality 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 the limits in the El Paso area, and the Clean Rivers program staff will discuss the bacteria issues. Ms. Grijalva will also discuss salinity, monitoring, outreach, as well as ongoing and future projects in the Rio Grande affecting water quality.

Also on the agenda, USIBWC Environmental Protection Specialist Kelly Blough will give a presentation on the history and present status of the Rio Grande Boundary Preservation Project. This reach of the Rio Grande and international boundary extends approximately 198 river miles, starting at a point approximately 90 miles downstream from El Paso to just upstream from Presidio, Texas. The purpose of the project was to restore the Rio Grande's character as the international boundary, preserve

the river boundary, and minimize future Rio Grande channel changes in that reach. The field implementation of this project and significant binational work accomplished through the 1980's and completed in the 1990's will be presented. Efforts included excavation of the Rio Grande channel and clearing of floodplain vegetation, the creation of wetland and pond mitigation sites, and replanting with native species at multiple locations.

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, July 13, 2017**  
**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**USIBWC Headquarters**  
**4171 N. Mesa Street, The Commons, Building C \***  
**El Paso, Texas 79902**

**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions – Carlos Peña, Citizens Forum Co-Chair and Principal Engineer, USIBWC
- Annual Rio Grande Water Quality Update and Basin Advisory Meeting — Leslie Grijalva, Environmental Protection Specialist, USIBWC Texas Clean Rivers Program
- Boundary Preservation Project — Kelly Blough, Environmental Protection Specialist, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

**\*Directions:** Exit I-10 at Executive Center Boulevard and head east toward Mesa St. Turn right on Mesa. USIBWC Headquarters building is in the Commons business complex to your right. Please arrive at least 30 minutes early because all visitors and employees must pass through security screenings.

*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.kuczmannski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczmannski@ibwc.gov)*