



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
August 2, 2019

### **SAFETY OF DAMS REPORT AND PREPARING FOR HURRICANE SEASON TO BE DISCUSSED AT AUGUST 14 MEETING IN MERCEDES**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (LRGCF) for **Wednesday, August 14, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the USIBWC office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas.** The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community regarding Commission projects and related activities.

Lorena Soriano, Civil Engineer, Safety of Dams Officer, USIBWC, will be speaking on the USIBWC Safety of Dams (SOD) Program. The USIBWC SOD Program is unique since it has both international dams jointly operated by the U.S. Section and Mexican Sections of the Commission, and territorial dams operated by each country. The international dams consist of two large storage dams (Amistad and Falcon Dams), and two diversion dams (Anzalduas and Retamal Dams). There are two diversion dams located in the U.S. (American and International dams) and one dam located in Mexico (Morelos Dam). All these dams are exempt from the National Dam Inspection Act of 1972 requiring the U.S. Corps of Engineers to inspect them, but it did not exempt the IBWC U.S. Section from the Act's Dam Safety provisions. Therefore, both the U.S. Section and the Mexican Section have jointly operated and maintained the Safety of Dams program following the U.S. Federal guidelines set forth by FEMA and U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Joe Tritz, Maintenance Supervisor, USIBWC, will discuss the duties and responsibilities of the Lower Rio Grande Field Office and its mission as it pertains to flood control. The LRGFO covers 276 miles of levee, to include the clearing of laterals and pilot channels, mowing the floodplain, the maintenance of 523 active structures, and flood readiness. Mr. Tritz will cover annual flood readiness, as well as how to read a gauge board, deploying levee liner, positive and negative flow through structures, and more.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 956-565-3150 or e-mail [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov).

News media may contact:

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# **LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM**

**Wednesday, August 14, 2019**

**3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**USIBWC Conference Room**

**325 Golf Course Road\***

**Mercedes, TX 78570**

## **Agenda**

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Tricia Cortez, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **IBWC Safety of Dams Program** – Lorena Soriano, Civil Engineer, Safety of Dams Officer, USIBWC
- **Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project Duties and Responsibilities** – Joe Tritz, Maintenance Supervisor, USIBWC
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

\*Directions: From Expressway 83, exit Mile 2 W. Travel south for approx. 1.5 miles to Golf Course Rd. Turn left. The USIBWC is the first building on your left.

*If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For information, call 956-565-3150 or e-mail [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov)*