



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
September 30, 2019

RIO GRANDE FISH HABITAT AND SEDIMENT REMOVAL PROJECTS ON AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 10 PUBLIC MEETING IN LAS CRUCES

The Rio Grande Citizens Forum (RGCF) of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will discuss native and non-native fish in the Rio Grande, and sediment removal projects slated to begin next spring. The meeting will take place on **Thursday, October 10, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Las Cruces City Hall, 700 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88001.** The Rio Grande Citizens Forum was established to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters.

Edward Enriquez, Warmwater Fisheries Biologist, New Mexico Game and Fish, will discuss native and non-native fish that are currently found in the Rio Grande and contrast to what the historical fish community was prior to the projects that channelized the river. Mr. Enriquez will discuss the Rio Grande's current and historical habitat types. He will also provide information on fishing opportunities that are currently available.

Rosie Montes, Area Operations Manager, Upper Rio Grande Field Office, USIBWC, will give a presentation on the Rio Grande desilting projects scheduled for the upcoming non-irrigation season. The desilting is primarily performed between September and March when the river bed is at its driest. Several locations along the Rio Grande are slated for the desilting project. The desilting projects to be undertaken by a government contractor are expected to remove the largest amount of sediment in the last several years. Disposal sites for sediment will be discussed as well as the option for private landowners to accept

the sediment on private property at no cost to the landowner. 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.

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RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, October 10, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Las Cruces City Hall

700 North Main Street *

Las Cruces, NM 88001

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Walton Low, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Remarks from Commissioner Jayne Harkins, USIBWC**
- **Native and Non-Native Fish in the Rio Grande River**—Edward Enriquez, Warmwater Fisheries Biologist, New Mexico Game and Fish
- **USIBWC Sediment Removal Projects Scheduled for 2020**—Rosie Montes, Area Operations Manager, Upper Rio Grande Field Office, USIBWC
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

***Directions:** From El Paso, take I-10 west. Take exit 142 Valley Drive. Keep left at the fork in the ramp and continue onto Valley Drive. Travel about ¼ of a mile and veer right onto Main Street. Continue on Main about 2.4 miles to City Hall.

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 email Lori.Kuczanski@ibwc.gov