



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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USIBWC SELECTS CITIZENS FORUM BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2-YEAR TERM

Commissioner Jayne Harkins of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has appointed 14 people to serve on the Rio Grande Citizens Forum Board.

The new board members are:

- **Brenda Barnes**, Wood Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.
- **Mark A. Calamia**, City of El Paso citizen
- **Ralph Duran**, City of Socorro Representative, District #2
- **Michael Flores**, Lower Valley Water District
- **Katie Kruthaupt**, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Paso del Norte Watershed Technical Committee member
- **Stephen Lantz**, City of El Paso citizen
- **Zachary Libbin**, Elephant Butte Irrigation District
- **Suleiman Masoud**, Vice President of the El Paso Association of Builders and member of the Greater El Paso Association of Realtors
- **Joe Montisano**, El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens
- **Karl Rimkus**, City of El Paso, Environmental Services
- **Gilbert Trejo**, El Paso Water
- **Blanca Trout**, Canutillo Independent School District Board member

- **Erin Ward**, Retired, New Mexico State University Water Resources Research Institute
- **Sidney Webb**, Mesilla Valley Audubon Society

USIBWC Area Operations Manager Rosie Montes will serve as the Commission's representative on the board.

“The new board members are from diverse organizations and will bring various perspectives on water issues,” said Commissioner Harkins. “We look forward to their expertise over the next two years.”

The USIBWC established the Rio Grande Citizens Forum in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of information with the community regarding Commission activities in the greater El Paso, TX-Las Cruces, NM region. It is designed to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, irrigation districts, municipalities, and others interested in the Rio Grande.

The board will conduct regular public meetings, approximately three times per year. Virtual meetings will be held until further notice. In-person meetings are held at sites alternating between El Paso, Texas, and Las Cruces, NM.

The Commission is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico and settling differences that arise in the application of the treaties. The Commission is the official entity that determines the location of the international boundary and demarcates the boundary by erecting and maintaining monuments along the land boundary and demarcation plaques and traffic buttons at the ports of entry. In the greater El Paso, TX-Las Cruces, NM region, the USIBWC operates and maintains Rio Grande flood control levees, delivers Rio Grande water to Mexico, demarcates the international boundary, and performs water quality monitoring, among other activities.

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