



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
October 19, 2021

### **U.S. COMMISSIONER TO ATTEND OCTOBER 28 PUBLIC MEETING: EL PASO WASTEWATER EMERGENCY AND RIO GRANDE FLOOD CONTROL LEVEE PROJECT UPDATE**

Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner, head of the United States Section of the [International Boundary and Water Commission](#) (USIBWC) will attend the next public meeting of the Rio Grande Citizens Forum (RGCF) on **Thursday, October 28, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. MDT via webinar**. Commissioner Giner was appointed to her position by President Joe Biden and was sworn in on September 15, 2021.

Gilbert Trejo, Chief Technical Officer, [El Paso Water](#), will give a presentation on El Paso Water's response to the Frontera Force Mains wastewater emergency. Beginning on August 13, the utility experienced multiple breaks to the parallel wastewater lines. This set of pipelines collects all the Westside wastewater – from showers, sinks, and toilets. Mr. Trejo will discuss the utility's response, timeline of events, plan of action, spill mitigation efforts and the ongoing multi-agency coordination that has been instrumental in helping El Paso Water get through this wastewater emergency.

Ramon Macias III, Principal Engineer, Engineering Department, USIBWC, will provide an update on the Rio Grande flood control levee projects in El Paso County. On December 16-17, 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) presented details of the Preliminary Flood Zone maps for El Paso County that were published on July 8, 2020. During

FEMA's multiple presentation meetings to the public, USIBWC also provided details of ongoing and completed levee design and construction projects, and planned levee projects. This presentation will provide the status of the levee projects in the El Paso County area.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact 915-494-6027 or the Public Affairs Office at [lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov).

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## RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, October 28, 2021

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. MDT

**To join our Teams Meeting, go to our web page:** <https://go.usa.gov/x6Bqg> and click the “Join” button. If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the Join link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning.

Or join by phone: Call in number: **(915) 320-4718** | **Conference ID: 860 273 728#**

### Agenda

- **Opening Remarks**—Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, Commissioner, USIBWC
- **Welcome and Introductions** – Rosie Montes, USIBWC Area Operations Manager, Upper Rio Grande Field Office, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **El Paso Water Response to Frontera Wastewater Emergency** —Gilbert Trejo, Chief Technical Officer, El Paso Water
- **El Paso County Levee Project Status Update**—Ramon Macias III, Principal Engineer, Engineering Department, USIBWC
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

*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 915-494-6027 or email [Lori.Kuczanski@ibwc.gov](mailto:Lori.Kuczanski@ibwc.gov)