



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

For immediate release  
October 29, 2014

### **ARROYO COLORADO FLOOD RISK AND MEXICO'S WATER DELIVERIES TO THE US ON AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 12 PUBLIC MEETING IN MERCEDES**

A new study of flood risk along the Arroyo Colorado will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum, an outreach program of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 12, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the USIBWC office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas. The USIBWC established the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities and related issues in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Dr. Padinare Unnikrishna, Supervisory Civil Engineer in the USIBWC's Engineering Services Division, will explain how the Arroyo Colorado, which flows through Harlingen, is an important component of the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project's flood conveyance system. During Rio Grande flood conditions, some of the floodwaters are diverted off the river into interior floodway channels in Mexico and the United States, including the Arroyo Colorado. According to an updated hydraulic analysis by the USIBWC, growth of dense vegetation and accumulation of sediment along the Arroyo Colorado has caused water surface elevations to be higher than in the past. Data indicate that under current channel conditions, the Arroyo Colorado could only convey 45% of the floodwaters it was designed to handle. The presentation will focus

on a description of the decreased flow capacity and the effectiveness of various mitigation alternatives to reduce flood risk along the Arroyo Colorado.

In other business, USIBWC Secretary Sally Spener will give an update on Mexico's Rio Grande water deliveries to the United States. In accordance with the 1944 Water Treaty, Mexico delivers to the United States one-third of the flow arriving in the Rio Grande from six Mexican tributaries. The deliveries are made in five-year cycles. With one year left in the current cycle, she will discuss water deliveries to date, a recent uptick in Mexico's deliveries and a corresponding decrease in Mexico's deficit, and efforts to secure water for the coming year.

A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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## **LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM**

**Wednesday, November 12, 2014**

**3:00 - 5:00 P.M.**

**USIBWC Conference Room**

**325 Golf Course Road\***

**Mercedes, TX 78570**

### **AGENDA**

- Welcome and Introductions – Omar Rios, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Arroyo Colorado Hydraulic Analysis and Flood Risk – Padinare Unnikrishna, Ph.D., P.E., CFM, Supervisory Civil Engineer, Engineering Services Division, USIBWC
- Update on Mexico's Rio Grande Water Deliveries to the United States – Sally Spener, Secretary, 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 956-565-3150.

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