



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

For immediate release  
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### **USIBWC AWARDS CONTRACTS TO REMOVE SEDIMENT FROM THE RIO GRANDE**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has awarded five contracts for sediment removal in the Rio Grande. The combined award amount is \$5.3 million for an estimated volume of 1,188,000 cubic yards of sediment to be removed.

Removal of the accumulated sediment from the river channel is necessary to restore the design flow capacity of the Rio Grande, provide adequate flood protection to adjacent properties and to improve efficiency of water deliveries to irrigation districts, municipalities, and Mexico. The sediment removal projects will occur during the fall-winter non-irrigation season.

“I know how important this work is for water users and landowners,” said U.S. Commissioner Jayne Harkins. “These contracts will help in key areas of the river.”

The sediment removal contract in Sierra County, New Mexico was awarded to Sierra Valley Contractors, LLC of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. The estimated excavation quantity is 176,000 cubic yards, with the focus of the work at the river confluences with the Tipton, Trujillo, Montoya, and Holguin Arroyos, and channel excavation from Tierra Blanca Creek to Sibley Arroyo.

Smithco Construction, Inc., of Caballo, New Mexico, was awarded four contracts -- two contracts take place in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, and the other two are in Hudspeth and El Paso Counties, Texas.

In north Doña Ana County, an estimated 100,000 cubic yards of sediment will be excavated from the upstream (north) sides of both the Hatch Siphon and Rincon Siphon. In addition, sediment will be excavated along the river channel from Salem Bridge to Highway 187 Bridge.

The middle portion of Doña Ana County sediment excavation will include the Hersey Arroyo confluence, the channel from Rincon Arroyo to Bignell Arroyo, the Rock Canyon Arroyo to below Tonuco drain, and the channel from Mesilla Bridge to Mesilla Dam for a total of 268,000 cubic yards.

In Doña Ana and El Paso Counties, 244,000 cubic yards of sediment will be excavated from the channel from the East Drain in Vinton to Vinton Bridge, along the Canutillo area, upstream and downstream of the Country Club Bridge, and from the Sunland Park Bridge to Montoya Drain outfall.

The river channel from McClintock Arroyo to Frailes Arroyo in Hudspeth County will have 400,000 cubic yards of sediment removed.

Once the sediment is removed, it will be disposed at various private locations that have a “no cost” agreement with the USIBWC. The USIBWC is accepting applications from members of the public who would like to receive sediment. The contractors are scheduled to begin on November 4, or pursuant to favorable river conditions. Work in Sierra County and Doña Ana County (north) is expected to be completed by January 2020, Doña Ana and El Paso Counties is expected to be completed in February 2020, Doña Ana County (middle) is expected to be completed in March 2020, and finally, work in Hudspeth County is expected to be completed by August 2020.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries. The U.S. Section of the Commission maintains the Rio Grande channel and flood control levees along various parts of the Rio Grande in New Mexico and Texas.

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