



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 31, 2018

CITY OF MCALLEN'S WATER RE-USE PROGRAM AND HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE PROJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NOVEMBER 14 MEETING IN MERCEDES

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (LRGCF) for **Wednesday, November 14, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the USIBWC office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas.** The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community regarding Commission projects and related activities.

Marco A. Vega, P.E., General Manager, McAllen Public Utility, will give an overview of McAllen Public Utility's Water and Waste Water Municipal Utility System. He will discuss a new project, the Reclaimed Water Re-Use Program. The Re-Use Program is the first of its kind in South Texas that will be supplying Type 1 reclaimed water for residential and commercial irrigation purposes. McAllen Public Utility has invested \$7 million to improve waste water quality to achieve Type 1 reclaimed water standards. Currently, McAllen is serving the CalPine Energy Plant, the Tres Lagos Master Planned Community, and the McAllen Palmview Golf Course for wholesale and irrigation water purposes.

The Citizens Forum will also hear from Raul E. Sesin, P.E., General Manager of the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 (HCDD No. 1), and Hidalgo County Floodplain Manager, on how the county is proactively managing the Hidalgo County Master Drainage

System which allows for the efficient exportation of drainage water in order to protect life and property. In June 2018, Hidalgo County received localized record rainfall with intensities only second to Hurricane Beulah in 1967. In an effort to initiate necessary drainage system improvements, the HCDD No.1 Board of Directors approved a bond election for November 6, 2018, where the voters will be able to consider a proposed \$190 million bond that could raise the district's tax rate by 3 cents per \$100 valuation. The bond issuance will help to mitigate the impact of future flooding events by addressing infrastructure needs and planned improvements.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 956-565-3150 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.

News media may contact:

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LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, November 14, 2018
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
USIBWC Conference Room
325 Golf Course Road*
Mercedes, TX 78570

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Tricia Cortez, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Overview of McAllen Public Utility and Current Projects**– Marco A. Vega, P.E., General Manager, McAllen Public Utility
- **Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 Mission and Current Challenges** – Raul E. Sesin, P.E., CFM, General Manager, Hidalgo County Floodplain Manager
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion/Suggested Future Agenda Items**

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

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For information, call 956-565-3150 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov