



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
November 5, 2015

### **MEXICO'S RIO GRANDE WATER DELIVERIES TO THE US, ARROYO COLORADO FLOOD CONTROL AND BROWNSVILLE LEVEE UPDATE TOPICS OF PUBLIC MEETING**

The current status of Mexico's Rio Grande water deliveries to the United States according to the 1944 Water Treaty, the vegetation management plan for Arroyo Colorado flood control, and an update of the Brownsville levee cracking will be discussed at the next meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (LRGCF) of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting takes place Wednesday, November 18, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the USIBWC office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas.

Under the 1944 Water Treaty, Mexico provides water to the United States from six tributaries to the Rio Grande. The treaty states that these deliveries shall not be less, as an average amount in cycles of five consecutive years, than 350,000 acre-feet annually except in the event of extraordinary drought or serious accident. Any deficiencies existing at the end of the five-year cycle shall be made up in the following five-year cycle. The five-year cycle ended on October 24, 2015, and Mexico delivered 85 percent of its five-year obligation, leaving a debt of 263,247 acre-feet. Carlos Peña, Principal Engineer, USIBWC Operations Department, will explain how Mexico will be making up the deficiency according to Minute 234, a 1969 agreement of the IBWC that describes the means for Mexico to pay off the debt.

The Arroyo Colorado floodplain is an important floodway in Cameron County, not only as a flood-water channel, but also as an area that migratory birds use to rear their young. It is also a travel corridor for the federally endangered Gulf Coast jaguarondi and ocelot. Balancing the Arroyo Colorado's ability to convey floodwaters while providing suitable habitat for the area's creatures is the presentation Dr. Eric Webb, Environmental Resources Manager of Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC), will give at this public

meeting. GSRC has prepared a vegetation management plan (VMP) to determine the effect of the woody vegetation removal project on federally threatened and endangered species, and explain the VMP for revegetation and continued vegetation maintenance within the Arroyo Colorado floodway.

Finally, Ramon Navarro, USIBWC Civil Engineer, will give an update on efforts to address cracks in the Rio Grande flood control levee near the Gateway International Bridge in Brownsville. His presentation will give a brief summary of the geotechnical site investigation and provide information on the current status of the planned repairs of the levee.

The USIBWC established the LRGCF 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.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact the USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande Project Office at 956-565-3150 or [mario.montes@ibwc.gov](mailto:mario.montes@ibwc.gov).

For more information:

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**LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Wednesday, November 18, 2015**  
**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
- **Mexico’s Rio Grande Water Deliveries to the U.S.** – Carlos Peña, Principal Engineer, IBWC Operations Department, will present the status of Mexico’s water deliveries in accordance with the 1944 Water Treaty.
- **Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for Arroyo Colorado Flood Control** – Dr. Eric Webb, Environmental Resources Manager, Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC), will give a presentation on a plan for revegetation and continued vegetation maintenance within this reach of the Cameron County floodway, while protecting the environment and species.
- **Update on Brownsville Levee** – Ramon Navarro, Civil Engineer, IBWC, will give a summary of the geotechnical evaluation of the Brownsville levee, covering the current phase of the scope of work.
- 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 or call or write to Mario A. Montes 915-832-4794 or [mario.montes@ibwc.gov](mailto:mario.montes@ibwc.gov).

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

