



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
November 8, 2021

USIBWC COMMISSIONER TO SPEAK DURING NOVEMBER 17 WEBINAR MEETING; UPDATES ON HIDALGO COUNTY DETENTION PONDS AND ARROYO COLORADO VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ALSO ON THE AGENDA

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 17, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. CST via webinar**. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community regarding Commission projects and related activities.

USIBWC Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner, who was recently appointed to her post by President Joe Biden, will make opening remarks at the webinar. Formerly the General Manager of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), she has extensive experience serving U.S.-Mexico border communities and looks forward to leveraging that experience in her new role at the USIBWC.

David Fuentes, Commissioner for Precinct 1, Hidalgo County, and Raul Sesin, PE, CFM, General Manager, Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1, will provide an update on the Delta Region Water Management Project. The project will provide increased flood control for the most populated areas of Hidalgo County. The Drainage District will give an overall update of the 2018 Bond Program projects and their status. The Drainage District has a great working relationship with the USIBWC and will provide an update on the permitting process for the pump and gate structures along the USIBWC floodway.

Sheri Donnelly, Swift Operation Partners, LLC, General Contractor, will provide an update of the vegetation removal along the banks of the Arroyo Colorado since the project started in April. The project is more than 80% complete. Donnelly will describe the vegetation

removal efforts, which are currently focused on the 15 feet adjacent to the banks. Donnelly will give an update on the last phase of work, which will be to seed native herbaceous plants and plant 30,000 native plants in the area adjacent to the banks where invasive vegetation was removed. The vegetation maintenance is required over a 6.3-mile segment between Business 77 to Cemetery Road in Harlingen and Cameron County, Texas to help restore the Arroyo Colorado's flood conveyance capacity. The project consists of removing problem vegetation along the arroyo overbanks and replacing it with native vegetation to restore the riparian corridor.

To join our Teams Meeting, click [here](#) or follow this link <https://go.usa.gov/xs/WRT> to Click on "Join." 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: **252 644 965#**

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting [here](#) or use this link <https://go.usa.gov/xs/WRT> and look for the links for the 11/17/2021 meeting. If you would like to speak during public comment, then please sign up ahead of time by contacting Lori Kuczanski at lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov or 915-494-6027 by noon on Nov. 17.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 915-494-6027 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.

News media may contact:
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LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. CST

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Agenda

- **Opening Remarks** – Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, Commissioner, USIBWC
- **Welcome and Introductions** – Carlos Sanchez, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Delta Region Water Management Project Update** – David L. Fuentes, Hidalgo County Commissioner, Precinct 1, and Raul Sesin, PE, CFM, General Manager, Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1
- **Update on the Arroyo Colorado Vegetation Management Project to Improve Flood Protection**—Sheri Donnelly, Swift Operating Partners, LLC.
- **Public Comment** (To make public comment, RSVP to Lori Kuczanski, Public Affairs Officer, lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov by noon on Nov. 17)
- **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 information, call 915-494-6027 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov