



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
December 22, 2016

RIO GRANDE FLOOD CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS AT CANUTILLO AND EL PASO DRAINAGE ASSESSMENT ON AGENDA FOR JANUARY 12 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL PASO

Rio Grande flood control improvements will be the focus of the next quarterly meeting of the Rio Grande Citizens Forum sponsored by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The public meeting will take place on Thursday, January 12, 6:30 p.m. –8:30 p.m. at the USIBWC Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa Street, The Commons, Building C, El Paso, Texas 79902. The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related activities.

USIBWC Civil Engineer Xochitl Aranda will give a presentation on the Canutillo Phase II Floodwall and Levee Design. The Canutillo Phase II improvements will provide flood protection for properties on the east side of the Rio Grande from north of Vinton Bridge to north of Borderland Bridge. The project involves a combination of floodwall and earthen levee system to include box culverts with sluice gates that will offer flood control.

Alan Shubert, Vice President of Operations and Technical Services, El Paso Water, will talk about storm water planning efforts completed in the City limits and how El Paso Water is collaborating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on planning efforts in El Paso County. He will also talk about construction requirements and challenges in El Paso County. The USIBWC levee work in El Paso has resulted in the need for interior drainage planning in areas adjacent to the Rio Grande in both El Paso City limits and El Paso County. Improvements to the levees are expected to affect drainage patterns, so planning should identify how storm water will be managed to protect both public health and property.

In other business, engineer Margaret Dubbin of Ideals, Inc. will talk about a 1980 fuel dispenser and underground petroleum storage tank at the USIBWC field office in Fort Hancock, Texas that was taken out of service in 1986. A recent environmental investigation of the facility revealed a low-level release of hydrocarbons from this tank into the shallow groundwater. The presentation will focus on the investigation which is being directed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to determine the clean-up requirements.

A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, January 12, 2017
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
USIBWC Headquarters
4171 N. Mesa St., The Commons, Building C*
El Paso, TX 79902

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions Walton Low, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Canutillo Phase II Floodwall and Rio Grande Levee Design –
Xochitl Aranda, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- Interior Drainage within the City of El Paso—Alan Shubert,
Vice President of Operations and Technical Services, El Paso Water
- Environmental investigation of the underground petroleum storage tank at
the USIBWC Fort Hancock Field Office —Margaret Dubbin, Engineer,
Ideals, Inc.

- Public Comment

- Board Discussion

- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions:** Exit I-10 at Executive Center Boulevard and head east toward Mesa St. Turn right on Mesa. USIBWC Headquarters building is in the Commons business complex to your right. Please arrive at least 30 minutes early because all visitors and employees must pass through security screenings.

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 915-832-4106 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.