



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
January 24, 2008

FLOOD CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS IN EL PASO, CIUDAD JUAREZ, AND DOÑA ANA COUNTY ON AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 4 PUBLIC MEETING

Flood control improvement projects in the Paso del Norte region will be the subject of an upcoming public meeting. The Rio Grande Citizens' Forum of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will meet at 6:30 p.m. on February 4 at USIBWC Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa Street, Building C, El Paso, Texas. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about the Commission's projects and related activities in the region.

Personnel from the Commission's U.S. and Mexican Sections will discuss Rio Grande flood control improvement projects in the region. Principal Engineer Gilberto Elizalde of the Mexican Section will describe projects in Mexico from the start of the international reach of the river at El Paso, Texas-Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua downstream through the Juarez Valley. He will discuss works to reinforce Mexico's Rio Grande flood control levees and to remove sediment and vegetation from the river and floodplain. Some work was completed in 2006 and 2007 with more planned for the current year.

U.S. Section Engineer Gabriel Duran will describe work planned in El Paso and Doña Ana Counties. The U.S. Section has received \$21.7 million this fiscal year for flood control work in Texas and New Mexico, a substantial portion of which will be spent in the Paso del Norte region. Planned projects in the area include Rio Grande levee-raising and improvements

in Doña Ana and El Paso Counties as well as development of a conceptual design for a floodwall at Canutillo.

The Forum will also hear from El Paso City Engineer Alan Shubert about the current status of critical repair/reconstruction infrastructure priorities that were identified as a result of Storm 2006. He will highlight expected construction timelines and budget as well as additional factors impacting overall project execution.

The Rio Grande Citizens' Forum was established by the USIBWC in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of information regarding USIBWC activities on the Rio Grande between Percha Dam, New Mexico and Fort Quitman, Texas. It is designed to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, irrigation districts, municipalities, and others interested in the river.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries and settling differences that arise in their application.

For more information:

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RIO GRANDE CITIZENS' FORUM

Monday, February 4, 2008

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

International Boundary and Water Commission
4171 N. Mesa Street, The Commons, Building C
El Paso, TX

Agenda

- Welcome - Alisa Jorgensen, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Storm 2006 Capital Project Update - Alan Shubert, City Engineer, City of El Paso
- Rio Grande Flood Control Improvement Projects in Ciudad Juarez - Ing. Gilberto Elizalde, Principal Engineer, Mexican Section, International Boundary and Water Commission
- Planned Levee Improvements in El Paso and Doña Ana Counties - Gabriel Duran, Engineer, U.S. Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC)
- USIBWC Annual Reports - Sally Spener, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC
- 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 915-832-4175 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov