



**International Boundary and Water Commission  
United States Section**



**RECOVERY.GOV**

For immediate release  
July 2, 2009

**RIO GRANDE WATER QUALITY, LEVEE REHABILITATION  
ON AGENDA FOR JULY 15 PUBLIC MEETING**

Rio Grande water quality and levee rehabilitation will be discussed at the July meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens' Forum (LRGCF). The LRGCF was established by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The meeting will be held Wednesday, July 15, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Commission office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas.

USIBWC Environmental Protection Specialists Elizabeth Verdecchia and Leslie Grijalva will provide a brief overview of the Clean Rivers Program (CRP) for the Rio Grande Basin, including goals, funding, and water quality monitoring activities. In the Lower Rio Grande, bacteria levels remain a concern in the Brownsville area. An upcoming study will include intensive monitoring of the Rio Grande in the Brownsville area with the goal of identifying the source of the bacteria. The presentation will also include a discussion of CRP accomplishments, outreach activities, and projects funded by the CRP, such as a local effort to train construction workers to control soil erosion. CRP staff will be available to discuss any issues and questions the public has related to Rio Grande water quality. Copies of the CRP's 2009 Basin Highlights Report, with detailed water quality information, will also be available for distribution.

In other business, USIBWC Civil Engineer Rod Dunlap will give an update on rehabilitation of Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project levees with funding provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Design has been completed for some levee segments and the first construction contracts will be awarded later this summer. The projects will enhance flood protection in the Valley in accordance with standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) while also stimulating the economy and creating jobs.

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 the Public Affairs Office at [sallyspener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.gov). For additional information about the Recovery Act, go to [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

For more information:

Sally Spener  
915-832-4175  
[sallyspener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.gov)

## **LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS' FORUM**

**Wednesday, July 15, 2009**

**4:00 - 6:00 P.M.**

**USIBWC Conference Room**

**325 Golf Course Road**

**Mercedes, TX 78570**

### **AGENDA**

- Welcome and Introductions – Bill Lewis, Lower Rio Grande Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Clean Rivers Program Annual Update and Rio Grande Basin Advisory Committee Meeting – Elizabeth Verdecchia and Leslie Grijalva, Environmental Protection Specialists
- Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Levee Rehabilitation – Rod Dunlap, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- Recognition of Board Members – Rodolfo Montero, Assistant Area Operations Manager, 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 956-565-3150.