



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



RECOVERY.GOV

For immediate release
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**USIBWC AWARDS CONTRACT
FUNDED BY THE RECOVERY ACT**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has awarded a \$19,169,159 construction contract for rehabilitation of Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project levees funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Recovery Act includes \$220 million for USIBWC levee projects.

The contract was awarded to Longhorn Excavators, Inc. of Richmond, Texas to construct levee improvements along a 43-mile reach of the Main Floodway in Hidalgo County, Texas. In accordance with the contract, Longhorn Excavators will furnish all labor, materials, and equipment for levee construction. The USIBWC is raising levee height to bring the levee into compliance with standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the 100-year flood. The project will provide enhanced flood protection for the communities of McAllen, Hidalgo, Pharr, San Juan, Alamo, Donna, and Weslaco. Construction is expected to be completed by September 2010.

This is the second Recovery Act construction contract awarded for levees in the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project. In July, the USIBWC awarded a contract in the amount of \$950,997 to Inuit Services, Inc. of Anchorage, Alaska for work along 3 miles of the Banker

Floodway North Levee in Hidalgo County, Texas between Granjeno and 23rd Street. The contract was awarded in accordance with a federal program targeting qualified small businesses located in distressed areas. Construction is scheduled to be completed in February 2010.

The Recovery Act funding enables the USIBWC to accelerate work on its aging Rio Grande flood control system in Texas and New Mexico to provide adequate flood protection for over three million U.S. residents. The purpose of the Recovery Act is to create and save jobs, jumpstart the economy, and build the foundation for long-term economic growth. The Act includes measures to modernize the nation's infrastructure, enhance America's energy independence, expand educational opportunities, increase access to health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

The USIBWC provides regular public updates on its planning and spending of Recovery Act funds at www.recovery.gov and www.state.gov/recovery. An updated project schedule is available at www.ibwc.gov/Recovery/RGF.html.

For more information:

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