



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



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**USIBWC AWARDS CONTRACTS FOR
UPPER RIO GRANDE LEVEE CONSTRUCTION
FUNDED BY THE RECOVERY ACT**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has awarded three construction contracts for rehabilitation of Rio Grande Canalization Project levees funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Recovery Act includes \$220 million for USIBWC levee projects.

A contract in the amount of \$26.1 million was awarded to Lakeshore Engineering Services, Inc. of Detroit, Michigan to construct 32 miles of levee improvements in Doña Ana County, New Mexico from Shalem Bridge to Vado Bridge. In accordance with the contract, Lakeshore Engineering Services will furnish all labor and materials for levee construction.

A contract in the amount of \$18.8 million was awarded to Milestone Excavation, Inc. of Dolores, Colorado for construction of 29 miles of levee improvements between Vado Bridge and Borderland Bridge in Doña Ana County, New Mexico and El Paso County, Texas.

Milestone Excavation was also awarded a contract in the amount of \$5.5 million for construction of levee improvements near Hatch, New Mexico. The work will cover 14 miles of levee on the west side of the Rio Grande between Hatch Siphon and Bignell Arroyo.

For all three contracts, construction is expected to be completed by early 2011.

“With the Recovery Act funds, we are now able to speed up work on the deficient levees,” said U.S. Commissioner C.W. “Bill” Ruth of the International Boundary and Water Commission.

The USIBWC is raising levee height and making structural improvements to bring the levees into compliance with standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide protection against the 100-year river flood. To date, the USIBWC has awarded \$144 million in Recovery Act contracts, including the contracts described above and others for levee work in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in South Texas. The USIBWC has also raised flood control levees near Mesilla Dam in New Mexico and in parts of El Paso County, Texas using in-house crews. Contracts for construction of additional levee improvements in Doña Ana County, New Mexico and El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Texas funded by the Recovery Act will be awarded in the coming weeks and months. The purpose of the Recovery Act is to create and save jobs, promote economic recovery, and invest in infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits.

The USIBWC provides regular public updates on its planning and spending of Recovery Act funds at www.recovery.gov and www.state.gov/recovery. A project schedule is available at www.ibwc.gov/Files/URG_Schedule.pdf.

For more information:

Sally Spener
915-832-4175
sallyspener@ibwc.gov