



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



**RECOVERY.GOV**

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**USIBWC AWARDS CONTRACT FOR  
LOWER RIO GRANDE LEVEE CONSTRUCTION  
FUNDED BY THE RECOVERY ACT**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has awarded a construction contract in the amount of \$4,977,434 for work in the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project in Texas 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 McAllen Construction of McAllen, Texas for construction of flood control improvements to provide protection for the Edinburg Pumping Station at Penitas along the Rio Grande just south of the intersection of Military Road and FM 1427 in Hidalgo County. The project entails relocation of the levee for 0.2-miles around the pumping station and construction of a gated crossing at the pump's intake channel. The work will enhance flood protection for the pumping station, which is part of Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 1, and other property on the landside of the pump. Constructed in 1925 and still used today by the irrigation district, the Edinburg Pumping Station at Penitas is considered a historic structure that is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The levee improvements will be constructed in compliance with standards established by the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for flood control systems. Construction is expected to take one year.

Construction contracts were previously awarded for Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project levees along the Banker Floodway, Main Floodway, North Floodway, Arroyo Colorado, and along the Rio Grande near the City of Hidalgo. Additional improvements along the river levee were previously completed by Hidalgo County and by USIBWC crews.

To date, the USIBWC has awarded \$164 million in Recovery Act contracts, including the contracts described above and others for levee work in Doña Ana County, New Mexico and El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Texas. 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. USIBWC Recovery Act expenditures have already preserved or created 390 jobs through the end of March.

The USIBWC provides regular public updates on its planning and spending of Recovery Act funds at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) and [www.state.gov/recovery](http://www.state.gov/recovery). A project schedule is available at [www.ibwc.gov/Files/LRG\\_Schedule.pdf](http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/LRG_Schedule.pdf). A map of completed and planned levee improvements is available upon request.

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