



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 27, 2016

ARROYO COLORADO FLOOD CONTROL AND INVASIVE MUSSELS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING NOVEMBER 9 PUBLIC MEETING IN MERCEDES, TEXAS

Vegetation management in the Arroyo Colorado to restore flood conveyance capacity and the status of the region's mussel species will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) on **Wednesday, November 9, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.** at the **USIBWC Field Office Conference Room, 325 Golf Course Road, Mercedes, Texas.**

Grady Engelking, Manager, Listo Services, will discuss the vegetation management project currently underway along the Arroyo Colorado, part of the USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project. Recent studies indicate that growth of dense vegetation in the channel increases flood risk for the community. The USIBWC recently contracted with Listo Services to remove brush to restore conveyance capacity and reduce flooding. Listo Services will work along nearly four miles of the Arroyo Colorado by selectively clearing vegetation between Business 77 and FM 509 in Harlingen. To provide a corridor for wildlife, crews will leave a five-foot buffer of tall grasses in a no-mow zone along the banks. The contractor will also replant native vegetation in affected areas.

In other business, Greg Binion, District Supervisor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries Division, will provide an overview and status of the mussel species

in South Texas. He will talk about the invasive mussel species, their economic and ecological impact, as well as best management practices.

The USIBWC established the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission projects and related activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 956-565-3150 or email lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.

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LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

USIBWC Conference Room

325 Golf Course Road*

Mercedes, TX 78570

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Juan Uribe, USIBWC Area Operations Manager and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Vegetation Management in the Arroyo Colorado to Restore Flood Conveyance Capacity — Grady Engelking, Manager, Listo Services
- Mussels in Texas: Overview and Status – Greg Binion, District Supervisor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries Division
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions:** From Expressway 83, exit Mile 2 W. Travel south for approximately 1.5 miles to Golf Course Road. Turn left. The USIBWC is the first building on your left.

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.