Rio Grande Levee Rehabilitation

June 2021 Citizens Forum
Update on Canalization Work
in the Sunland Park Area
The Upper Rio Grande Flood Control System consists of US flood control levees alongside 204 miles of the Rio Grande from Percha Dam located below Caballo Reservoir in New Mexico to Little Box Canyon, Texas. It includes both the Canalization Project and the Rectification Project.
Sunland Park Levees

- Sunland Park West Levee
  - 2.8 miles currently under construction
  - 0.6 miles under design
- Sunland Park East Levee
  - 8.4 miles under design
- Country Club Bridge Floodgate
- Site map follows on next slide
Sunland Park West Levee

• Current Construction
  – Borderland Bridge to Country Club Bridge
  – Contract #191BWC19C0010
  – $6,392,200
  – Fisher Sand & Gravel Co
  – Construction reached substantial completion on June 11, 2021
  – Levee and floodplain has been seeded with native grasses
  – Maintenance of vegetation through at least December 2021
Sunland Park West Levee

Completed levee.

Seeding operations.
Sunland Park West Levee

Watering seeded areas.

New Borderland Bridge levee entrance.
Sunland Park West Levee

• Remaining Construction
  – Country Club Bridge to Nemexas Siphon (0.59 miles)
  – Design at pre-100% complete.
  – USIBWC is currently reviewing pre-100% documents
  – Anticipate issuing solicitation for construction this year
Sunland Park East Levee

- Remaining Construction
  - Borderland Bridge to El Paso Electric Power Plant (8.42 miles)
  - Design at pre-100% complete.
  - USIBWC is currently reviewing pre-100% documents
  - Anticipate issuing solicitation for at least part of 8.4 miles of construction this year
Country Club Floodgate

• Installed in 2012
  – After installation, began receiving noise complaints
  – IBWC 2013 noise study concluded that “traffic driving over the bridges in this study area exhibited an increase in low-frequency noise and decrease in mid- and high-frequency” noise
Country Club Floodgate

• Removal of floodgate as part of levee reconstruction
  – Replacing floodgate with stoplogs
  – Design at pre-100% complete. USIBWC is currently reviewing pre-100% documents
  – Anticipate issuing solicitation for construction this year

• Stoplogs
  – Roadway will be rebuilt to match bridge/road crown, eliminating current noise
  – Stoplogs will require shed or container to store materials onsite
Stoplog Examples

Country Club stoplogs will have 5 bays and be about 2 feet tall.
Canalization Levee Accreditation

• As IBWC completes levees, we are working with local project sponsors who must certify and submit the required information to show that the levee system meets all design and operations requirements of 44 CFR 65.10

• Levee Certification Sponsors in Texas
  – El Paso City limits: EP Water
  – El Paso County outside city limits: El Paso County
  – Partially in city/county limits: EP Water
Canalization Levee Accreditation

• Other Stakeholders Include
  – City of Sunland Park
  – Doña Ana County
  – Elephant Butte Irrigation District
  – El Paso County Water Improvement District #1

• FEMA 44 CFR 65.10 requires: levee design (which includes freeboard, closures, erosion protection, seepage, and settlement), as-built drawings, interior drainage, operation plans, and maintenance plans
City of El Paso, IBWC, and FEMA held Open House on December 16 and 17, 2020. Videos of presentation can be found at: https://www.elpasotexas.gov/planning-and-inspections/flood-zones-2/open-house/

Maps of Canalization Project are available at:
International Boundary and Water Commission
United States Section
Engineering Services Division
Construction Branch
4191 N. Mesa
El Paso, TX 79902

Andrea “Andie” Glover, PE
(915) 832-4747
andrea.glover@ibwc.gov