

# **RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION**



**Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary  
April 21, 2016**

*Excellence through teamwork.*



# CITIZENS FORUM

- USIBWC established the Rio Grande Citizens Forum Board in 1999 in Paso, TX-Las Cruces, NM
- Program expanded in early 2000s
  - USIBWC CF in San Diego County
  - Colorado River CF in Yuma and Imperial Counties
  - Southeast Arizona CF
  - Lower Rio Grande CF (TX)
- Mexican Section established Citizens Forum in 2014.



*Excellence through teamwork.*



# CITIZENS FORUM

- **CF Purpose:** To promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission activities and related projects in the greater El Paso-Las Cruces region.
- Offers a means to share information with the public and for groups to share information with USIBWC.
- Diversity of viewpoints is welcome.
- CF is not a federal advisory committee.



*Excellence through teamwork.*



# CITIZENS FORUM

- Intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued 2-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, water managers, irrigators, neighborhoods, environmentalists, recreational interests, government agencies, etc.



*Excellence through teamwork.*



# CITIZENS FORUM

---

- All meetings are open to the public
- Regular communication with board via email
- Meeting notices, presentations, notes are available online at:

[http://www.ibwc.gov/Citizens\\_Forums/CF\\_URG.html](http://www.ibwc.gov/Citizens_Forums/CF_URG.html)

*Excellence through teamwork.*



# CITIZENS FORUM

- Past agenda items have included:
  - Levee improvement projects
  - Rio Grande water quality studies
  - Rio Grande water supply



*Levee rehabilitation near Vado, NM*

*Excellence through teamwork.*



# CITIZENS FORUM BOARD

- Board term is 2 years
- Board members serve as volunteers; no expense reimbursement
- Quarterly public meetings in El Paso and Doña Ana Counties
- Field trips to border sites
- Board members expected to attend all meetings



*Rio Grande CF board members at Monument #1*

*Excellence through teamwork.*



# CITIZENS FORUM BOARD

- **Board Member Duties:**
  - Review and comment on projects and documents
  - Discuss Commission activities and projects
  - Present information on related activities
  - Bring issues to attention of the USIBWC



*Excellence through teamwork.*





# CITIZENS FORUM BOARD

---

- 14 community board members plus USIBWC Principal Engineer
- Two Co-Chairs:
  - USIBWC PE Carlos Peña
  - Community Co-Chair selected by the board



*Excellence through teamwork.*



# CITIZENS FORUM BOARD

---

- Co-chair duties
  - Attend all meetings
  - Chair every other meeting
  - Determine agenda items with input from board
  - Be available in between meetings to handle any business



*Excellence through teamwork.*



# CITIZENS FORUM BOARD

- Discussion Items
  - Selection of a co-chair
  - Meeting Logistics
    - Days and times
    - Locations
  - Field trips and tours



*Rio Grande CF board members at International Dam*

*Excellence through teamwork.*

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION,  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO  
UNITED STATES SECTION**



[www.ibwc.gov](http://www.ibwc.gov)

[Sally.Spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:Sally.Spener@ibwc.gov)

915-832-4175

[Shellie.Munoz@ibwc.gov](mailto:Shellie.Munoz@ibwc.gov)

*Excellence through teamwork.*