



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



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February 19, 2010

**LEVEE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
ON AGENDA FOR MARCH 3 PUBLIC MEETING**

Levee construction being carried out with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) will be discussed at the March public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (LRGCF). The LRGCF was established by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 3, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Commission office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas.

USIBWC Civil Engineer Rod Dunlap will give an update on the Recovery Act levee construction projects in the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. The projects will enhance flood protection in the Valley in accordance with standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The presentation will include project completion updates on several levee construction contracts along the Rio Grande and off-river floodways affecting the communities of McAllen, Granjeno, Hidalgo, Pharr, San Juan, Alamo, Donna, Weslaco, Mercedes, La Villa, and La Feria. 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.

In other business, USIBWC Area Operations Manager Rodolfo Montero will discuss various operations and maintenance issues affecting the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project. He will recap work that has already been completed to raise 19 miles of Rio Grande flood control levees in Cameron County. He will also give an update on efforts to rehabilitate drainage and irrigation structures at USIBWC levees. To comply with FEMA criteria, work is being performed to ensure that all structures are operable and capable of controlling flood. He will also discuss how the USIBWC coordinates with Mexico and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regarding operation of Morillo Drain, a water quality project in Mexico that controls discharge of saline irrigation return flows from Mexico into the Rio Grande.

Montero will also explain the water accounting functions of his office, which include operation of cableways and gaging stations. To ensure compliance with the 1944 Water Treaty that allots the waters of the Rio Grande between the United States and Mexico, the Commission constantly measures Rio Grande flow. The Lower Rio Grande Project Office coordinates closely with TCEQ and USIBWC Headquarters on its water accounting operations.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact the USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande Project Office at 956-565-3150 or the Public Affairs Office at sallyspener@ibwc.gov. For additional information about the Recovery Act, go to www.recovery.gov.

For more information:

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LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, March 3, 2010
4:00 - 6:00 P.M.
USIBWC Conference Room
325 Golf Course Road
Mercedes, TX 78570

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Bill Lewis, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Update on Recovery Act Levee Construction Projects in the Lower Rio Grande Valley – Rod Dunlap, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project Operations and Maintenance – Rodolfo Montero, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
 - Rehabilitation of drainage structures and levees to meet FEMA criteria
 - Morillo Drain
 - Water Accounting
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

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.