



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 13, 2009

FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS, LOWER RIO GRANDE PROJECTS ON AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 21 PUBLIC MEETING

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will discuss flood insurance issues affecting Hidalgo and Cameron Counties at the next public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum, an outreach program of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place Wednesday, October 21, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the USIBWC office, 325 Golf Course Road, Mercedes, TX 78570-9677.

Engineer Larry Voice and Flood Insurance Specialist Linda Delamare from FEMA's regional office in Denton, Texas will discuss the current effort to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The maps will be used to determine flood risk, applicable flood insurance requirements, and flood insurance rates for property owners. The USIBWC is currently undertaking a project to rehabilitate the Lower Rio Grande flood control levees in accordance with FEMA standards.

Prior to the FEMA presentation, U.S. Commissioner C.W. "Bill" Ruth will make brief remarks to welcome new Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum board members. Commissioner Ruth appointed new board members in September and this is the first meeting of the new board. USIBWC Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener will give an overview of Commission responsibilities and will review the duties of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum Board. USIBWC Area Operations Manager Rodolfo Montero will present information about the

Commission's current activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, including operation and maintenance of the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project, work on the Morillo Drain salinity control project, and operation of diversion dams.

The Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum was established by the USIBWC to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It is designed to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, irrigation districts, municipalities, and others interested in the river. A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

USIBWC Conference Room

325 Golf Course Road

Mercedes, TX 78570

AGENDA

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

- Welcome – Bill Ruth, Commissioner, USIBWC

- Introduction of New Board Members

- Board Member Orientation – Sally Spener, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC
 - Overview of IBWC Mission and Projects
 - Board Member Roles and Responsibilities

- IBWC Projects in the Lower Rio Grande Valley – Rodolfo Montero, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

- Development of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Hidalgo and Cameron Counties – Larry Voice, Engineer, and Linda Delamare, Flood Insurance Specialist, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- 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.