



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section



For immediate release
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COUNTRY CLUB BRIDGE TO CLOSE FOR 10 DAYS IN MARCH DUE TO LEVEE CONSTRUCTION

Country Club Bridge across the Rio Grande in El Paso's Upper Valley will close for ten days beginning on Monday, March 5 due to Rio Grande levee construction. The bridge is scheduled to reopen on March 15 or as soon as construction is completed. During construction, detour signs will direct vehicles approximately 2 miles north to Artcraft Bridge via Westside Drive or Doniphan Drive.

The closure, which will affect all lanes of traffic in both directions, is needed so that automatic flood control gates can be installed at the bridge. The construction is being performed by Ultimate Concrete of El Paso, Texas under contract to the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) as part of a project to rehabilitate Rio Grande flood control levees between Borderland Bridge in El Paso, Texas and the Rio Grande Power Plant in Sunland Park, New Mexico. The contractor coordinated with the City of El Paso for the traffic control plan related to the bridge closure.

The work is being carried out with funding appropriated to the USIBWC from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. 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. The USIBWC received \$220 million in Recovery Act appropriations for levee rehabilitation in New Mexico and Texas. The funds have already created or preserved an estimated 2500 jobs.

The USIBWC is rehabilitating 122 miles of Rio Grande flood control levees between Hatch, New Mexico and Fort Hancock, Texas. The work is intended to bring the levees into compliance with standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Communities protected by FEMA-accredited levees are not required to purchase flood insurance. USIBWC is also constructing levee improvements in Presidio, Texas and South Texas. All construction is expected to be completed in 2012.

For more information:

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