



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
5:00 p.m. CDT, September 22, 2010

DIVERSIONS INTO U.S. INTERIOR FLOODWAY LIKELY

Rio Grande flow observed on September 22 at Rio Grande City, Texas indicates that diversion of water into the U.S. interior floodway system in the Lower Rio Grande Valley is likely, beginning as early as September 23. River flow is elevated due to releases from Falcon Dam, located at Falcon Heights, Texas-Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas, coupled with inflows from Mexican tributaries downstream from Falcon Dam. Flow at Rio Grande City remains well below flood stage.

Based on information currently available, diversions into the U.S. interior floodway, if necessary, would be minimal – less than 10% of the peak flow experienced in July and less than 2% of the carrying capacity. The U.S. interior floodway system includes the Banker Floodway, Main Floodway, North Floodway, and Arroyo Colorado in Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties. Any initial diversions would not likely reach the North Floodway although this could change in the coming days. Diversion of water into the U.S. and Mexican interior floodways in conformance with longstanding international agreements allows the Commission to limit Rio Grande flows at Brownsville, Texas-Matamoros, Tamaulipas; accordingly, flows there are expected to remain relatively stable.

The Commission is currently releasing water from Falcon Dam, located at Falcon Heights, Texas-Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas, at the rate of 11,500 cubic feet per second (325 cubic meters per second) and no increase in releases is expected for the next 24 hours. The Commission continues to evaluate evolving conditions in the Rio Grande Basin and may

increase dam releases in the coming days as conditions warrant. The Commission will notify the public of any future increases.

Residents in the affected region who are concerned about flood conditions should monitor National Weather Service warnings and forecasts for information about any flood watches, warnings, and advisories that could be issued for the Rio Grande or local communities.

For more information:

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