



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
September 23, 2010

### **FALCON DAM RELEASES TO INCREASE AGAIN; DIVERSIONS INTO U.S. INTERIOR FLOODWAY EXPECTED**

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, will increase releases from Falcon Dam, located at Falcon Heights, Texas-Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas, from 11,500 cubic feet per second (325 cubic meters per second) to 15,000 cubic feet per second (425 cubic meters per second) on the morning of September 24. The reservoir has continued to rise due to precipitation in the Rio Grande basin, requiring increased releases so as to maintain Falcon Reservoir at a safe level. These releases are only one-fourth of the peak releases that occurred in July.

With elevated flow in the Rio Grande, the Commission expects to divert water into the U.S. interior floodway system in the Lower Rio Grande Valley beginning this week. River flow is elevated due to the Falcon Dam releases coupled with inflows from Mexican tributaries downstream from Falcon Dam. The National Weather Service is not currently forecasting flood conditions at Rio Grande City based on the increased releases from Falcon Dam, assuming no increased inflows from Mexican tributaries downstream from the dam.

Based on information currently available, any diversions into the U.S. interior floodway would likely be minimal – approximately one-tenth of the peak flow experienced in July and only 5% of the floodway system's capacity. The interior floodway system includes the Banker Floodway, Main Floodway, North Floodway, and Arroyo Colorado in Hidalgo, Cameron, and

Willacy Counties. 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, where flows are expected to remain relatively stable.

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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