



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
November 7, 2022

USIBWC BUDGET AND DAM SAFETY PLAN ON AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 16 WEBINAR

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (LRGCF) for **Wednesday, November 16, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. CST via webinar**. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community regarding Commission projects and related activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

As requested by the Citizens Forum Board, U.S. Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner will provide an overview of the USIBWC budget process and appropriations. She will explain the federal budget process as it pertains to USIBWC, highlighting appropriations benefitting the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The USIBWC's local field office in Mercedes, Texas is responsible for operating and maintaining the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project, among other responsibilities.

In other business, USIBWC Civil Engineer Karla Benitez will discuss the Commission's Amistad Dam Safety Mitigation Plan. Amistad Dam, located on the Rio Grande at Del Rio, Texas – Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, is the Commission's largest dam. Together with Falcon Dam, it provides water supply, flood control, and recreational benefits to both countries. Because of concerns associated with naturally-occurring sinkholes, Amistad Dam has been rated Urgent – Potentially Unsafe. Ms. Benitez will present the Commission's plan to address the problem.

To join our Teams Meeting follow this link <https://bit.ly/NovLRGCF> to click on "Join." If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. Or join by phone. Call-in number: **(915) 320-4718 | Conference ID: 399 603 197#** For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting. Use this link <https://bit.ly/NovLRGCF> to connect to the Citizens Forum page and look for the presentation links for the 11/16/2022 meeting. If you would like to speak during public comment, then please sign up ahead of time by contacting Sally Spener at sally.spener@ibwc.gov or 915-503-5542 by noon on November 15. A complete agenda follows.

For information:

Sally Spener
915-503-5542
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LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, November 16, 2022
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. CST

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** — Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **USIBWC Budget Process and Appropriations** – Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E., Commissioner, USIBWC.
- **Amistad Dam Safety Mitigation Plan** — Karla Benitez, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- **Public Comment** (To make public comment, RSVP by noon on Nov. 15 to sally.spener@ibwc.gov or 915-503-5542)
- **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 information, call 915-503-5542 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov