



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
November 30, 2009

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR PRESIDIO FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public hearing regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for improvements to the Rio Grande Flood Control Project at Presidio, Texas. The hearing will take place on Thursday, December 10, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., at the Presidio Activities Center, 1400 East O'Reilly Street in Presidio.

The EIS analyzes seven alternatives related to structural repairs to flood control levees or enhanced flood protection. The USIBWC operates and maintains 15 miles of Rio Grande flood control levees in the Presidio area between Haciendita and Brito Creek. The levees, designed to contain the 25-year flood, were damaged during a Rio Grande flood in 2008.

The alternatives are:

1. No additional levee repairs will be made beyond the emergency repairs already completed north of Cibolo Creek to rehabilitate levees damaged during the 2008 flood.
2. Restore damaged and eroded levee segments to the project's original 25-year design flood.
3. Raise the existing levee to provide protection from the 100-year flood.
4. Raise the levee to provide protection from the 100-year flood. In the upper reach of the project, the levee would maintain its current alignment. In the downstream reach, which was severely damaged during the 2008 flood, the levee would be relocated to more stable ground 500 feet to the landside of the current levee alignment.
5. Raise the existing levee in the upper reach to provide 100-year flood protection for the urban part of Presidio. Downstream at levee mile 9.2, 100-year flood protection would be provided by a new spur levee from the floodplain to high ground at Highway 170. In the most downstream segment of the project, the levee would be rehabilitated to provide 25-year protection for adjacent agricultural lands.
6. Same as Alternative 5 except that the spur levee would be farther upstream at levee mile 8.5.
7. Same as Alternative 5 except that the spur levee would be at levee mile 7.4 and would run along the railroad bridge embankment and south of Presidio High School.

For each alternative, the EIS identifies potential impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, land use, socioeconomic resources, transportation, and environmental health.

The USIBWC will also accept written comments on the EIS through January 12, 2010. Written comments should be submitted to:

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The Draft EIS is available online at http://www.ibwc.gov/Files/Draft_EIS_FCI_Presidio_111709.pdf and a hard copy may be viewed at the City of Presidio Public Library, 1200 East O'Reilly Street.

For more information:

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