



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 15, 2014

FLOOD CONTROL ISSUES ON AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 23 PUBLIC MEETING IN LAS CRUCES

An arroyo management plan and storm warning system for the Las Cruces area are on the agenda for the next public meeting of the Rio Grande Citizens Forum sponsored by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place on Thursday, October 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Las Cruces City Hall, Rooms 2007 B & C, Las Cruces, NM 88001.

Carol McCall, Planner with the City of Las Cruces, will discuss the Arroyo Management Plan (AMP) being drafted by the City. The AMP will provide policy guidance to support systematic flood control and drainage functions, protect arroyos in their natural state, help protect private property, help improve water quality, and accommodate and protect essential utility installation and maintenance. The draft plan is available for review at: <http://www.las-cruces.org/protectarroyos>. It is tentatively scheduled for consideration by the City's Planning and Zoning Commission at a public hearing on October 28, 2014.

As both urban and rural development increases, many arroyos have been rerouted, channelized, or dammed to protect property and increase usable land. These actions have altered natural drainage function, wildlife connectivity, and the propagation of vegetation in some areas. Through the AMP, the City of Las Cruces wants to protect the major arroyos as open space and encourage private property owners to preserve smaller tributaries to the greatest extent possible.

In other business, John Gwynne, Engineer Supervisor with the Doña Ana County Flood Commission, will discuss the development of a storm warning system in the county. His presentation will include an overview of what a flood warning system is and a status update on its development.

Finally, USIBWC engineer Cesar Boisselier will discuss sediment control infrastructure along the Rio Grande in southern New Mexico. Between 1969 and 1975, five sediment control dams were constructed on four arroyos that flow into the Rio Grande. These dams are designed to provide sufficient storage capacity to contain an estimated 100 years of sediment inflow. Four of the dams are designed to control the 100-year flood while one is designed to control an estimated 50-year flood. The USIBWC performs annual inspection and maintenance on these dams.

The Rio Grande Citizens Forum was established by the USIBWC in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of information regarding USIBWC activities on the Rio Grande between Percha Dam, New Mexico and Fort Quitman, Texas. It is designed to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, irrigation districts, municipalities, and others interested in the river. A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, Oct. 23, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Las Cruces City Hall
Rooms 2007 B & C
700 North Main Street*
Las Cruces, NM 88001-3512

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Conrad Keyes, Jr., Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- City of Las Cruces Arroyo Management Plan – Carol McCall, Planner, Community Development Department, City of Las Cruces
- Development of a Storm Warning System – John Gwynne, Engineer Supervisor, Doña Ana County Flood Commission
- Sediment Control Dams along the Rio Grande in Southern New Mexico – Cesar Boisselier, Assistant Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- 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 more information, call 915-832-4175 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov