



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
October 11, 2023

RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 19

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) Rio Grande Citizens Forum board is pleased to announce that it will host an in-person and virtual public meeting on **October 19, 2023, from 6:30-8:30 P.M. MDT.**

Genevieve Allan, Project Management Specialist with the Water Management Division for the Bureau of Reclamation, will be discussing The Rio Grande Project Area - Drought Resilience Team. This multi-agency technical team was established in response to prolonged aridification of the Rio Grande Project area and aims to build resilience in the project water supply, improve water management, enhance habitat to the extent possible, explore water conservation opportunities, allow for information sharing between government agencies and project water users, and explore joint funding opportunities.

David Duran, Area Operations Manager for the USIBWC Upper Rio Grande Field Office, will be discussing the USIBWC Sediment Disposal Program. The USIBWC is seeking partners that may need sediment for their projects or for general use. The sediment is dirt removed from the riverbed or floodway and is offered at no cost (FREE) to anyone. Mr. Duran will present the process of applying for the No-Cost Sediment eAgreement at the October 19th Citizen's Forum.

The public meeting will be held in person at:

**Doña Ana County Government Center, Commission Chambers
845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88007**

The public meeting will also be held virtually. To join the Microsoft Teams meeting, go to [this link](#). Click on the "Join" button. If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the "Join" link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning. Or join by phone: [+1 872-240-1286](tel:+18722401286), [973309648](tel:+18722409733)# Phone Conference ID: 973 309 648#

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting. Go to the Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum page <https://bit.ly/48KJ7ks> Look for the links for the 10/19/2023 meeting.

If you would like to speak during the public comment period, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Leslie Grijalva at leslie.grijalva@ibwc.gov or 915-832-4770 by noon on October 15.

News Media Contacts:

Leslie Grijalva

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C: 915-443-3692

W: 915-832-4770



Rio Grande Citizens Forum
Thursday, October 19, 2023, from 6:30-8:30 MDT
Doña Ana County Government Center, Commission Chambers
845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88007
And via Teams Webinar

To join our Teams Meeting, go to our web page:

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Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Brenda Barnes, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Opening Remarks** – Frank Fisher, Director of Public Affairs, USIBWC
- **Rio Grande Project Area - Drought Resilience Team** - Genevieve Allan, Project Management Specialist Water Management Division, Bureau of Reclamation
- **USIBWC Sediment Disposal Program** - David Duran, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC Upper Rio Grande Field Office.
- **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 915-832-4770 or email leslie.grijalva@ibwc.gov.

IBWC Citizens Forum

October 19, 2023

Genevieve Allan

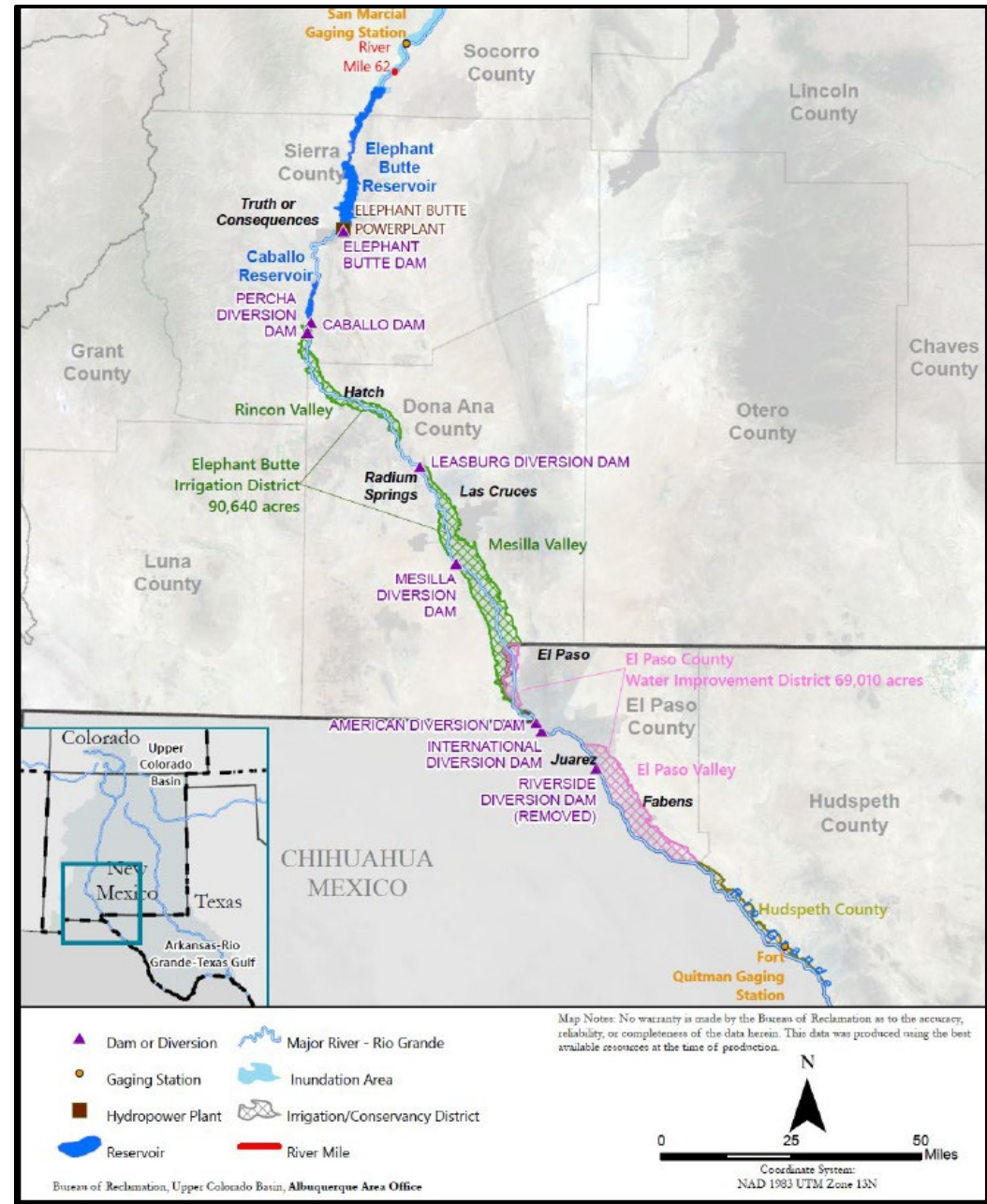
Rio Grande Project Area – Drought Resilience Team

Project Manager

Bureau of Reclamation



Map showing the Rio Grande Project Area



Rio Grande Project Area-Drought Resilience Team (RGPA-DRT)

- A multi-agency technical team established by the State of NM and Reclamation in response to prolonged aridification of the Rio Grande Project area.
- The Team aims to
 - Build resilience in the Project water supply;
 - Improve water management;
 - Enhance habitat to the extent possible;
 - Explore water conservation opportunities;
 - Allow for information sharing between government agencies and Project water users;
 - Explore joint funding opportunities.



RGPA-DRT members on a field trip of EBID, courtesy of EBID



Member Agencies* of the RGPA-DRT

Federal	State	Local
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission	City of Las Cruces
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service	New Mexico Office of the State Engineer	El Paso County Water Improvement District No.1
U.S. International Boundary Water Commission		Elephant Butte Irrigation District

*This is a dynamic group and membership is dependent on the kinds of projects that are being engaged in within the area. The group is open to new governmental agencies with a vested interest in the area.



Objectives of the RGPA-DRT

- Small Storage Opportunities
- Sediment Dam Enhancements
- Brackish Groundwater Development and Desalination
- Water Importation
- Water Conservation



Elephant Butte Reservoir. As of March 4th, the reservoir was 15% full (35% of average) – courtesy of the USGS



Monsoon Flooding in Hatch, NM in 2006 – courtesy of EBID

RGPA-DRT Subgroups

- Stormwater Capture
- Brackish Groundwater Importation and Desalination
- Ecosystem Restoration



Elephant Butte Dam and Reservoir, courtesy of USBR



Potential RGPA-DRT Project

Leasburg Ponds

- Project: Stormwater capture and off-channel habitat opportunity
- Benefits: Potential to augment the existing Leasburg State Park nearby



Potential off-channel site at Leasburg Diversion Dam, courtesy of EBID



Funding for RGPA-DRT Related Projects

- Cooperative Agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (FY24-FY28)
- Cooperative Agreement with the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission for Water Resource Professionals (FY24-FY28)
- Rio Grande Project Area Brackish Aquifer Literature Review Contract (Ends August 2024)



WaterSMART Notices of Funding

- [WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I for Fiscal Year 2023](#)
 - Phase I activities to develop a watershed group, complete watershed restoration planning activities, and design watershed management projects.
 - Application Period 1: Closes Dec 5, 2023 | Application Period 2: Closes September 23, 2024
 - \$10k-\$300k
 - No cost share required
- [WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024](#)
 - Projects must increase the Reliability of Water Supplies through (1) Infrastructure Improvements, (2) Groundwater Recovery, (3) Decision Support Tools, Modeling, and Measurement, and (4) Construction of domestic water supply projects for Tribes or disadvantaged communities that do not have reliable access to water supplies.
 - Application closes Oct 31, 2023
 - \$25k-\$5m
 - 50/50 cost share or higher



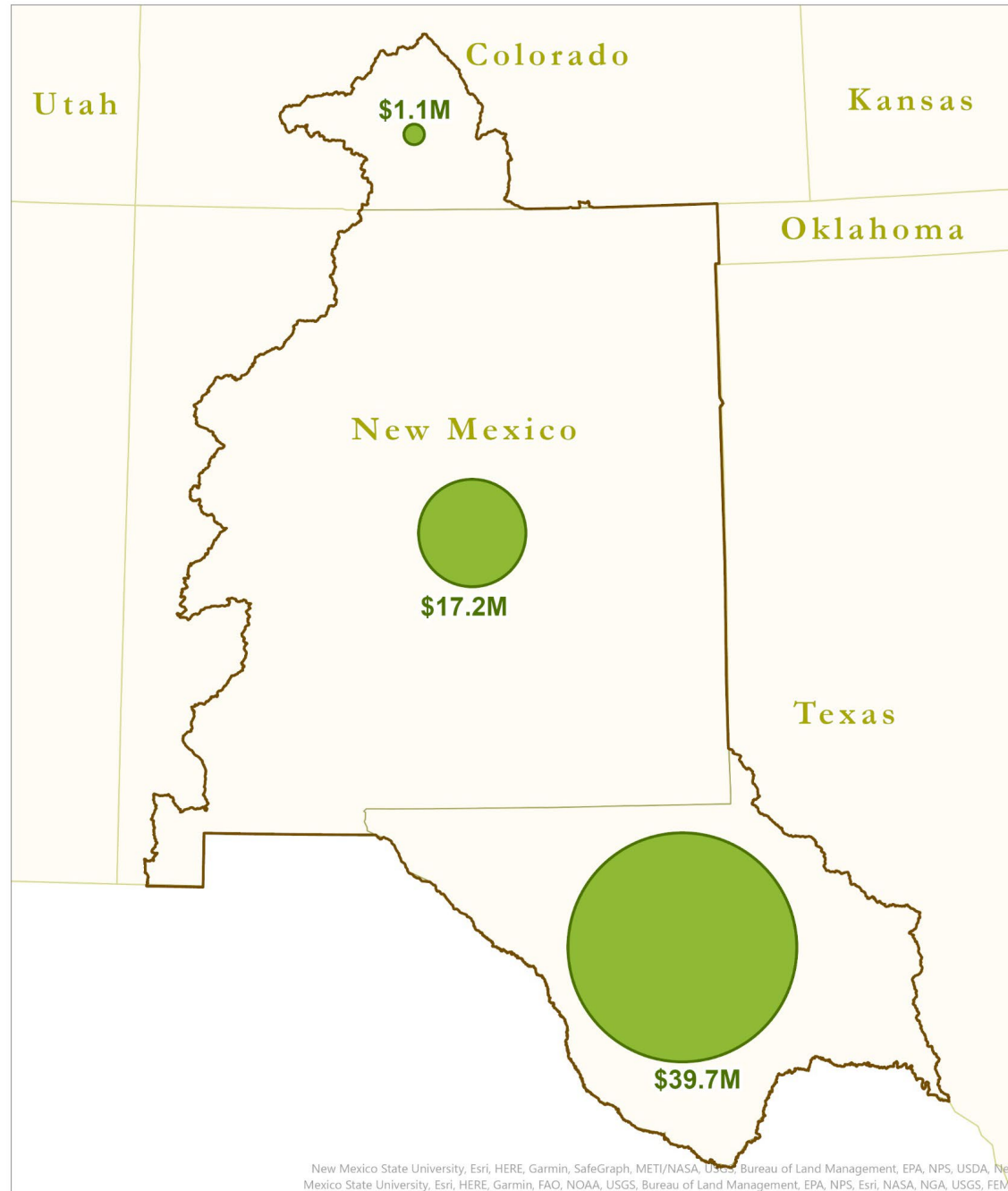
WaterSMART Notices of Funding

- [WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects](#)
 - NOFO is to design and construct aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and result in the improvement of the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat through restoration and improved fish passage.
 - \$500k-\$2m
 - 65% federal/35% non-federal
 - Due Jan 24, 2024
- [WaterSMART Program Homepage](#)
- [Funding Opportunity Calendar](#)



Rio Grande Basin WaterSMART Funding by State, 2018-2023

Extensive variety of projects – all are focused on water conservation as the primary goal, modernizing existing infrastructure, and reuse.



An aerial photograph of a river system. In the foreground, a wide, blue river flows from the bottom left towards the center. A concrete dam with several vertical supports spans across the river. To the right of the dam, the river continues and is bordered by a long, straight concrete levee. Beyond the levee, there are large, flat agricultural fields, some green and some brown. In the background, a small town or village is visible, followed by a range of mountains under a clear blue sky.

Questions?

RGPA-DRT Project Manager

Genevieve Allan
gallan@usbr.gov



UPPER RIO GRANDE
USIBWC

SEDIMENT DISPOSAL PROGRAM





INTRODUCTION

- The Upper Rio Grande Field Office of the USIBWC main challenge is sediment management at the Rio Grande. This includes sediment removal from the river, stock piling efforts, and ultimately **SEDIMENT DISPOSAL**.
- Every year during water season, massive amounts of water volumes are released into the river which in turn bring massive amounts of sediment. If this sediment is not removed from the river right after water season, the risk of potential flooding increases.



PRE-EXISTING PROGRAM

- The pre-existing program was a paperwork system where customers had the need to physically travel to the respective field office and fill out paperwork.
- The paperwork required a wet signature from the prospective customer.
- Process cumbersome for customer.
- Storage and tracking was not efficient for the field offices.

NEW PROGRAM & PRIMARY GOALS

- The new program needed to get rid of paper and incorporate technology. Have a digital form where a potential customer does not have to travel to the field office. <https://forms.office.com/g/uPYMnuP7Kd>
- Getting rid of the requirement for a wet signature.
- An internal team from IBWC which included staff from Legal, Safety, O&M and others, got together to create a digital cost agreement to achieve the desired goals.
- Storage, tracking, and follow up a lot more efficient.
- The digital site is up and running. QR code and Links → <https://forms.office.com/g/uPYMnuP7Kd>



* Required

Type of Agreement

1. The Agreement is made between USIBWC and: (select from Individual or Corporate/Business)

*Note: Ranching and Farming fall under Corporate/Business *

An Individual

A Corporate/Business

Next

6

Presentation title

10/18/2023

3. ENTER FULL ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code): *

Enter your answer

4. ENTER PHONE NUMBER: *

Enter your answer

5. EMAIL ADDRESS: *

Enter your answer

Back

Next



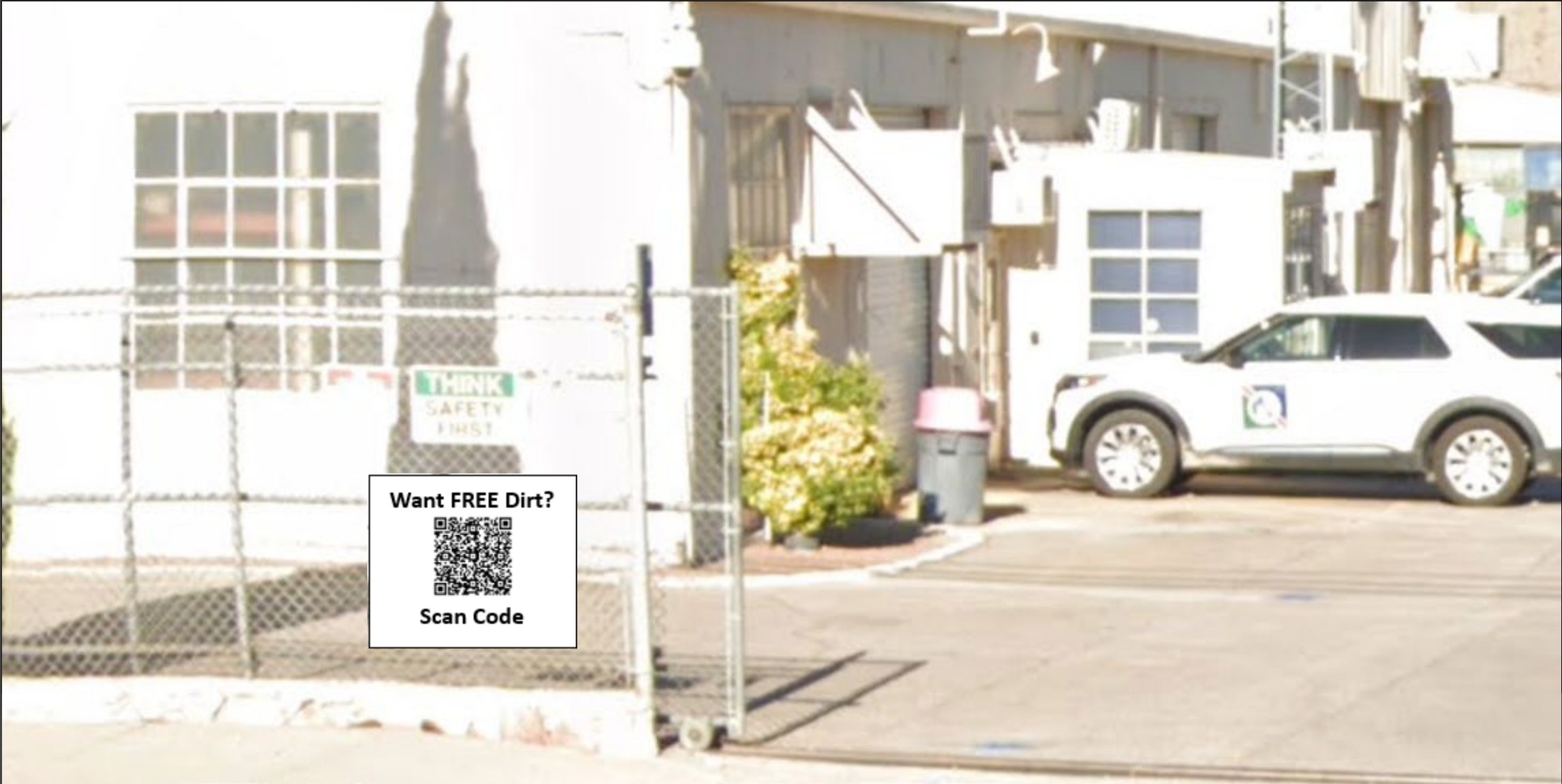
IS THAT SIMPLE!

- Requestor will receive a call from their corresponding area supervisor depending on the area of sediment disposal and coordinate pick up or delivery.
 - Las Cruces
 - El Paso / American Dam
 - Ft. Hancock



FY24 STRATEGY





Want FREE Dirt?

Scan Code



UPPER RIO GRANDE FIELD OFFICE
LAS CRUCES FACILITY



504 S. MIRANDA



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO
UNITED STATES SECTION

Want FREE Dirt?

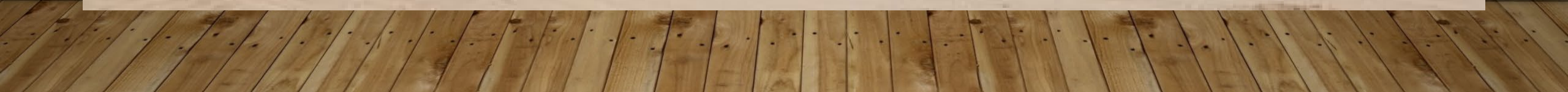


Scan Code



Want FREE Dirt?

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COLORADO

FY24 STRATEGY

- Incorporate the QR code and links on all URG staff signature emails.
- Attend local outreach forums such as
 - Rio Grande Citizens Forum
 - Stormwater Coalition
 - others
- Partner with the PAO office to promote through X and other means available



NO COST AGREEMENT FOR
SEDIMENT REMOVAL



THANK YOU
