



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section



For immediate release  
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### **BORDERLAND BRIDGE TO CLOSE FOR THREE WEEKS DUE TO LEVEE CONSTRUCTION**

Borderland Bridge across the Rio Grande in El Paso's Upper Valley will close for approximately three weeks beginning on Monday, January 9 due to Rio Grande levee construction. During construction, detour signs will direct vehicles to cross the river using the bridge on Artcraft Road approximately one-half mile to the south.

The closure is needed so that automatic flood control gates can be installed at the bridge. The construction is being done by Ultimate Concrete under contract to the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) as part of a project to rehabilitate Rio Grande flood control levees between Borderland Bridge in El Paso, Texas and the Rio Grande Power Plant in Sunland Park, New Mexico.

The work is being carried out with funding appropriated to the USIBWC from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The purpose of the Recovery Act is to create and save jobs, promote economic recovery, and invest in infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits. The USIBWC received \$220 million in Recovery Act appropriations for levee rehabilitation in New Mexico and Texas. The funds have already created or preserved an estimated 2300 jobs.

Construction of the flood gates at Borderland Bridge is expected to be completed by the end of January. The USIBWC is rehabilitating 122 miles of Rio Grande flood control levees between Hatch, New Mexico and Fort Hancock, Texas. The work is intended to bring the levees into compliance with standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Communities protected by FEMA-accredited levees are not required to purchase flood insurance. USIBWC is also constructing levee improvements in Presidio, Texas and South Texas. All construction is expected to be completed in 2012.

For more information:

Sally Spener  
915-832-4175  
[sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov)