



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
April 8, 2015

RIO GRANDE WATER SUPPLY AND RIVER CHANNEL MAINTENANCE ON AGENDA FOR APRIL 23 PUBLIC MEETING IN LAS CRUCES

The region's Rio Grande water supply will be discussed at 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 takes place on Thursday, April 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Las Cruces City Hall, Rooms 2007 B & C, Las Cruces, NM 88001.

Bert Cortez with the Bureau of Reclamation will discuss conditions in the Rio Grande basin affecting water availability for users in southern New Mexico and the El Paso, Texas-Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua region. With below-average precipitation in much of the basin, Reclamation expects to deliver less than a full supply to users during a shortened irrigation season. Mr. Cortez will discuss planned reservoir operations at Elephant Butte and Caballo Dams for the 2015 irrigation season, including the planned water release dates for each reservoir and the start of deliveries for the U.S. irrigation districts and Mexico.

In other business, Antonio Solo with the USIBWC will give an update on the agency's Rio Grande desilting operations. The purposes for removing silt from the river channel are: to assure that water released from upstream reservoirs is delivered efficiently to users, to maintain the channel's ability to convey flood flows, to alleviate silting up of irrigation canals, and to minimize waterlog on farmland in the vicinity of the river. The USIBWC is presently performing desilting

operations in the Rio Grande in accordance with the agency's River Management Plan. The focus of this effort is at arroyo and drain confluences where sediment tends to accumulate.

The USIBWC established the Rio Grande Citizens Forum 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, April 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 – Carlos Peña, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Rio Grande Project Water Supply for 2015 – Bert Cortez, Manager, El Paso Field Division, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- River Channel Maintenance Update – Antonio (Tony) R. Solo, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions:** From El Paso, take I-10 west. Take exit 142 Valley Drive. Keep left at the fork in the ramp and continue onto Valley Drive. Travel about ¼ of a mile and veer right onto Main Street. Continue on Main about 2.4 miles to City Hall.

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