



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
April 28, 2015

### **MEXICO'S RIO GRANDE WATER DELIVERIES TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONDITION OF THE BROWNSVILLE FLOOD CONTROL LEVEE ON AGENDA FOR MAY 13 PUBLIC MEETING IN MERCEDES**

Updates on Mexico's Rio Grande water deliveries to the United States and the cause of cracks in the flood control levee in Brownsville will be discussed at the next meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (LRGCF) of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will be held Wednesday, May 13, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the USIBWC office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas.

William Finn, Chief of the USIBWC Water Accounting Division, will present the status of Mexico's Rio Grande water deliveries to the United States. In accordance with the 1944 Water Treaty, Mexico delivers water to the United States from six Mexican tributaries to the Rio Grande. These deliveries are critical for the water supply in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. The current five-year delivery cycle runs from October 25, 2010 through October 24, 2015. In the first two years of the cycle, Mexico got behind in its deliveries, leaving a current deficit of 338,000 acre-feet. Mr. Finn will discuss expected water deliveries in the final six months of the cycle, strategies to reduce the deficit, and approaches that could be employed to avoid deficits in the future.

In other business, Ramon F. Navarro, USIBWC Civil Engineer, will give a presentation about the Upper Brownsville Levee Geotechnical Site Investigation in Cameron County, Texas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, under contract to the USIBWC, has completed its investigation and is in the process of finalizing the report. The investigation determined that rapid drawdown of the Rio Grande and local geologic conditions caused cracking of the Rio Grande flood control levee that was discovered in 2014 near the Gateway International Bridge. The presentation will provide an update on the completion of the site investigation and the solution the USIBWC is planning to implement. The cracks pose no immediate flood risk at current river levels and are considered safe under conditions similar to the 2010 flood.

The USIBWC established the LRGCF to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities and related issues in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact the USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande Project Office at 956-565-3150 or [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov).

For more information:

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

## **LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM**

**Wednesday, May 13, 2015**

**3:00 - 5:00 P.M.**

**USIBWC Conference Room**

**325 Golf Course Road**

**Mercedes, TX 78570**

### **AGENDA**

- Welcome and Introductions – Omar Rios, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Upper Brownsville Levee Geotechnical Site Investigation in Cameron County, Texas – Ramon F. Navarro, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- Status Update on Mexico's Five-Year Cycle Rio Grande Water Deliveries to the United States – William Don Finn, Chief, Water Accounting Division, 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 956-565-3150.