



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

For immediate release  
July 29, 2014

### **RIO GRANDE FLOOD CONTROL AND HISTORICAL SITES ALONG THE RIVER ON AGENDA FOR AUGUST 13 PUBLIC MEETING IN MERCEDES**

The 2010 Rio Grande flood and historical sites along the river will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum, an outreach program of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 13, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the USIBWC office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas. The USIBWC established the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum 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.

USIBWC Area Operations Manager Rodolfo Montero will present an overview of the Commission's operations during the 2010 Rio Grande flood – the Lower Rio Grande Valley's worst flood since 1967. Heavy rains from Hurricane Alex and a tropical depression affected the region, requiring floodwaters to be released from Falcon Dam and upstream reservoirs in Mexico. To limit flood flows in the Rio Grande, the Commission diverted some of the floodwaters into interior floodways in the United States and Mexico. Since then, the USIBWC has continued efforts to rehabilitate its flood control levees to improve flood protection for communities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

In other business, USIBWC Cultural Resources Specialist Mark Howe will discuss historical sites along the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project. One of the USIBWC's responsibilities is to ensure proper management of cultural resources in the project area. His presentation will cover the history of Fort Brown, located along the Rio Grande at Brownsville, TX, and archaeological excavations conducted there in 2012. He will also discuss the Horcon Tract, an area along the river affected by the relocation of the U.S.-Mexico border in the 1970s.

A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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## **LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM**

**Wednesday, August 13, 2014**

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

**USIBWC Conference Room**

**325 Golf Course Road\***

**Mercedes, TX 78570**

### **AGENDA**

- Welcome and Introductions – Rodolfo Montero, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Historical Resources along the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project – Mark Howe, Cultural Resources Specialist, USIBWC
- 2010 Rio Grande Flood and Current Conditions – Rodolfo Montero, 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 956-565-3150.

**\*Directions:** From Expressway 83, exit Mile 2 W. Travel south for approximately 1.5 miles to Golf Course Road. Turn left. The USIBWC is the first building on your left.