



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

For immediate release  
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### **RIO GRANDE FLOOD OPERATIONS ON AGENDA FOR AUGUST 25 PUBLIC MEETING**

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will discuss recent Rio Grande flood operations during the next public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum. The meeting will be held Wednesday, August 25, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Commission office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas.

USIBWC Area Operations Manager Rodolfo Montero will explain the Commission's responsibilities when the Rio Grande is in flood. The Commission's Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project consists of a system of flood control levees, diversion dams, and interior floodways in the United States and Mexico from Peñitas, Texas to the Gulf of Mexico. For the first time since 1988, the Commission diverted floodwaters from the Rio Grande into the U.S. interior floodway system at Anzalduas Dam near Mission, Texas-Reynosa, Tamaulipas. The floodway system consists of channels known as the Banker Floodway, Main Floodway, North Floodway, and Arroyo Colorado. At Retamal Dam, near Donna, Texas-Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, the Commission diverted water into Mexico's interior floodway. Montero will discuss how the U.S. levees along the floodways and river held up during the height of the flood and how his staff responded to the emergency.

USIBWC Principal Engineer Carlos Peña will also discuss upstream reservoir operations that affected the Valley. In the wake of Hurricane Alex, Falcon Reservoir reached its highest

elevation in history, surpassing the record set in 1958. Because of the high elevation at the reservoir and continued high inflows, the Commission made flood releases out of the dam, which impacted the Valley. Staff will explain Commission criteria for operating the dam and how conditions upstream on Mexican tributaries also affected the Rio Grande.

The Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum was established by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Citizens Forum board members represent a diversity of interests in the region. 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 Office at 956-565-3150 or the Public Affairs Office at [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)