



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
August 23, 2012

USIBWC SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH PROPOSED FENCE PROJECTS IN THE RIO GRANDE FLOODPLAIN

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting on August 29, 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel, 5274 East Highway 83 in Rio Grande City, Texas to present information about how it evaluates projects in the Rio Grande floodplain. At a previous public meeting, members of the public requested additional information about how the USIBWC has performed its technical analysis of a proposed U.S. Customs and Border Protection border security fence near the Rio Grande in the area of Roma, Rio Grande City, and Los Ebanos, Texas.

The USIBWC provides technical reviews of projects proposed by various entities for construction across the Rio Grande floodplain, such as roadways, fences, and bridges. Under the 1970 Boundary Treaty, the Commission considers whether projects could obstruct or deflect the normal or flood flows of the Rio Grande. The USIBWC does not construct border fences and does not speak for sponsors of border fences or of other infrastructure in the floodplain. The USIBWC's role is limited to the technical analysis required by the 1970 Treaty.

The USIBWC analyzed the impact of the proposed border fence based on state-of-the art two-dimensional modeling and informed U.S. Customs and Border Protection in February 2012 that the proposed fence would not cause significant obstruction or deflection and is, therefore, consistent with the 1970 Boundary Treaty. At the August 29 meeting, the USIBWC will discuss the technical basis for its review. A representative from U.S. Customs and Border Protection will also be available to answer questions about the fence project.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information may contact Jose Nuñez, Chief of the USIBWC's Engineering Services Division, at 915-832-4710 or jose.nunez@ibwc.gov.

News Media may contact:

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**USIBWC Hydraulic Analysis of Proposed Border Fence
near Roma, Rio Grande City, and Los Ebanos, TX
Wednesday, August 29, 2012
6:00 - 8:00 P.M.
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
5274 East Hwy 83
Rio Grande City, TX 78582**

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – John L. Merino, Principal Engineer USIBWC
- Purpose of the Meeting – John L. Merino, Principal Engineer, USIBWC
- Project Description – Jose Nuñez, Supervisory Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- Hydraulic Modeling Analysis Discussion - Dr. Padinare Unnikrishna, Lead Hydraulic Engineer, USIBWC
- Questions

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time by calling Cecilia Rubio at 915-832-4112.