



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section



For immediate release  
September 22, 2011

### **RIO GRANDE WATER QUALITY AND LEVEE CONSTRUCTION ON AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 6 PUBLIC MEETING IN EL PASO**

The results of water quality monitoring in the Rio Grande and the status of flood control levee construction will be presented at a public meeting of the Rio Grande Citizens Forum, an outreach program of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place Thursday, October 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at USIBWC Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa Street, Building C, El Paso, Texas.

An overview of water quality issues in the Upper Rio Grande in Texas will be presented by Leslie Grijalva and Elizabeth Verdecchia of the Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP), which is responsible for collecting water quality information from the Rio Grande Watershed. They will provide a brief overview of the CRP, water monitoring activities, and outreach activities. They will also report on water quality in the Upper Rio Grande of Texas and provide an update of 2010 revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards and upcoming nutrient criteria. Their presentation will discuss special projects, ongoing and planned, for the Upper Rio Grande Basin in Texas and provide information about ways the public can get involved. The CRP will also present awards to organizations that participate in the Adopt-a-River program, a litter control initiative along the Rio Grande.

In other business, USIBWC Civil Engineer Andrea Glover will give an update on Rio Grande levee construction in the greater El Paso-Las Cruces region. The work is intended to comply with levee standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The USIBWC received \$220 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for rehabilitation of Rio Grande flood control levees in New Mexico and Texas. The purpose of the Recovery Act is to create and save jobs, promote economic recovery, and invest in infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits.

The Rio Grande Citizens Forum was established by the USIBWC 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, October 6, 2011**  
**6:30 - 8:30 P.M.**  
**USIBWC Headquarters**  
**4171 N. Mesa St., The Commons, Building C**  
**El Paso, TX 79902**

**AGENDA**

- Welcome and Introductions – Carlos Peña, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- How's the Water? – Leslie Grijalva and Elizabeth Verdecchia, Environmental Protection Specialists, USIBWC Texas Clean Rivers Program
- Presentation of USIBWC Adopt-a-River Awards – John Merino, Principal Engineer, USIBWC
- Update on Rio Grande Levee Construction – Andrea Glover, Civil Engineer, 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 915-832-4175 or e-mail [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov)