



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

For immediate release  
October 4, 2011

### **USIBWC APPOINTS AREA RESIDENTS TO RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM BOARD**

Commissioner Edward Drusina of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has appointed new board members to the Rio Grande Citizens Forum. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about the Commission's projects and related issues between Percha Dam, New Mexico and Fort Quitman, Texas.

Commissioner Drusina appointed the following board members:

- John Balliew, El Paso Water Utilities, incumbent Citizens Forum board member
- Valerie Beversdorf, Elephant Butte Irrigation District
- Daniel Chavez, Hudspeth County Conservation & Reclamation District No. 1 General Manager
- Carl Clark, City of Las Cruces Utilities Projects and Water Rights Manager
- John Cordova, Raba-Kistner Consultants, Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee
- Joe Gonzalez, Gonzalez Family Dairy, Doña Ana Soil & Water Conservation District
- Travis Johnson, El Paso attorney, formerly on BECC Advisory Council, former County Judge
- Conrad Keyes, Jr., Paso del Norte Watershed Council Chair, incumbent Citizens Forum board member
- Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association, incumbent Citizens Forum board member
- Sal Masoud, El Paso Association of Builders, Del Rio Engineering, incumbent Citizens Forum board member
- Dale Reinhardt, Mayor of Clint
- Kevin von Finger, El Paso County Ecotourism Committee, Keystone Heritage Park Board, City of El Paso Open Space Advisory Board

USIBWC Principal Engineer Carlos Peña will serve as the agency's representative on the board.

"We had an outstanding pool of applicants to the Citizens Forum Board and I know those selected will be a great asset," said Commissioner Drusina.

A public meeting with the new board will be held at 6:30 p.m. on October 6 at USIBWC Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa Street, Building C, El Paso, TX. A complete agenda is attached.

The USIBWC established the Rio Grande Citizens Forum in 1999. 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. All board terms had expired and the USIBWC opened up applications to the general public. Board members serve as volunteers for a two-year term.

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)