

For immediate release
March 8, 2004

PUBLIC MEETINGS IN LAREDO, EAGLE PASS, DEL RIO TO DISCUSS RIO GRANDE FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) and the United States National Weather Service (NWS) have scheduled three meetings with local officials to ensure that emergency managers are prepared in the event of a Rio Grande flood. Members of the public are encouraged to attend, especially those with property adjacent to the Rio Grande who could be affected during a flood. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

Laredo, Texas - Monday, March 22, 2:30 p.m., City of Laredo Public Works Building, 5512 Thomas Avenue

Eagle Pass, Texas - Tuesday, March 23, 2:30 p.m., Multi-Purpose Center, 480 South Adams

Del Rio, Texas - Wednesday, March 24, 9:00 a.m., Del Rio Civic Center, 1915 Veterans Blvd.

The USIBWC and NWS are responsible for providing flood release data from Amistad and Falcon International Dams and flood forecasts for the Rio Grande. In the event of a flood, the USIBWC will provide projected flood releases from the dams to the NWS, which will use this information in preparing flood forecasts for the Rio Grande. At the meeting, they will join

with local emergency response officials to discuss how data can be shared and used appropriately during storms so that timely decisions can be made about evacuations, road closures, and other measures designed to protect life and property.

Additionally, the USIBWC will present its latest Rio Grande hydraulic models, indicating how water levels in low lying areas near the river would be affected by floods of various magnitudes. These models will aid emergency planning for property in the floodplain.

Emergency coordination officials from both sides of the border will present their flood coordination plans and staff contact information to improve communications during a flood emergency. Additionally, the NWS will present its forecast procedures and organization.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries. The Commission operates Amistad International Dam at Del Rio-Cd. Acuña and Falcon International Dam at Falcon Heights-Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, which provide for water storage, flood control, and hydroelectric power for both countries.

For more information:

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