

For immediate release  
January 9, 2004

## RIO GRANDE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY, RIVER PARK PROJECTS, RESLER ARROYO ON AGENDA FOR JANUARY 21 PUBLIC MEETING

The quarterly public meeting of the Rio Grande Citizens' Forum of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will feature presentations about the Rio Grande Canalization Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the Resler Arroyo, and how the Commission coordinates river park projects. The meeting takes place Wednesday, January 21, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at USIBWC Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa Street, The Commons, Building C, El Paso, Texas.

Acting Chief of the USIBWC Environmental Management Division, Doug Echlin, will give an update on the status of the DEIS on River Management Alternatives for the Rio Grande Canalization Project, which was released for public comment last month. The study analyzes alternatives for managing the project, covering 105 river miles from Percha Dam, NM to El Paso, TX. The study will help the Commission determine the best way to manage the project to benefit the environment while maintaining flood control and water delivery capabilities.

Issues related to the proposed development of the Resler Arroyo on El Paso's west side will be discussed by Charles Wakeem, President of the Coronado Neighborhood Association. The Resler Arroyo is a natural drainage to the Keystone Heritage Park wetland near the Rio Grande. The Coronado Neighborhood Association has recommended that the City of El Paso pursue a land swap with the developer and preserve the Resler Arroyo as a natural area for future generations.

USIBWC Boundary and Realty Division Chief Manuel Rubio, Jr. will share information about how the U.S. Section coordinates with local communities to permit park and trail development along the Rio Grande. New parks are currently being built in the Las Cruces-El Paso region, with others already in

existence elsewhere along the Rio Grande. A complete agenda appears below.

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, NM and Fort Quitman, TX. 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.

Members of the Rio Grande Citizens' Forum Board, who serve as unpaid volunteers, represent a variety of interests along the Rio Grande in west Texas and southern New Mexico. The group is co-chaired by Carlos Marin, Deputy Commissioner with the USIBWC, and Kevin Bixby, Director of the Southwest Environmental Center in Las Cruces.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries and settling differences that arise in their application.

For more information:

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# **RIO GRANDE CITIZENS' FORUM**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2004**

**6:30 - 8:30 P.M.**

International Boundary and Water Commission  
4171 N. Mesa Street, The Commons, Building C  
(just south of Executive Center Boulevard)  
El Paso, TX

## **Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions - Carlos Marin, Deputy Commissioner, USIBWC
- Resler Arroyo - Charles Wakeem, President, Coronado Neighborhood Association
- River Parks and Trails on the Rio Grande - Manuel Rubio, Jr., Chief, USIBWC Boundary and Realty Division
- Update on Rio Grande Canalization Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Doug Echlin, Acting Chief, USIBWC Environmental Management Division
- 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 [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov)