



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
March 10, 2022

LEVEE REHABILITATION PROJECTS, RIO GRANDE SALINITY CONTROL AND WATER DELIVERIES FROM MEXICO ON AGENDA FOR MARCH 24 WEBINAR

The United States Section of the [International Boundary and Water Commission](#) (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (LRGCF) for **Thursday, March 24, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. CDT via webinar**. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community regarding Commission projects and related activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

Joe Vela, Civil Engineer, USIBWC, will be providing an update on the status of Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project levees under construction and projects planned for the future. The USIBWC is rehabilitating its levees to meet standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The USIBWC awarded a [\\$6.4 million contract](#) to rehabilitate the levee at the Edinburg Pump Station in Peñitas, Texas. By closing the levee gap, this project will provide flood protection for the cities of Peñitas and Mission, Texas.

Francisco Martinez, Civil Engineer and Assistant Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, will discuss the jointly funded work for Morillo Drain and Pumping Station, per Minute No. 223. The system consists of three components: a diversion structure near the mouth of Morillo agricultural drain to the Lower Rio Grande, a pumping plant, and a 24-mile diversion canal located in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico. Martinez will discuss the required annual maintenance and recent upgrades to the pump station as required by the Minute. Morillo Drain diverts approximately 300,000 tons of salt each year, helping protect agricultural production in the Rio Grande Valley.

USIBWC Secretary Sally Spener will provide a status report on Mexico's Rio Grande water deliveries to the United States under the 1944 Water Treaty. The treaty allots water to the

United States from six Mexican tributaries to the Rio Grande in cycles of five years. She will also discuss Minute No. 325, a Commission agreement signed in 2020 that closed out the previous five-year cycle and established work groups to engage in planning to improve the predictability and reliability of Rio Grande water deliveries to users in both countries.

To join our Teams Meeting, click [here](#) or follow this link <https://go.usa.gov/xs/WRT> to Click on “Join.” If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the Join link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning. Or join by phone: Call-in number: **915-320-4718** | Conference ID: **859 124 876#**

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting [here](#) or use this link <https://go.usa.gov/xs/WRT> and look for the links for the 3/24/2022 meeting. If you would like to speak during public comment, then please sign up ahead of time by contacting Lori Kuczanski at lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov or 915-494-6027 by noon on March 24.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 915-494-6027 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.

News media may contact:
Lori Kuczanski
Cell: 915 494-6027
Lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov

LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, March 24, 2022
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. CDT

To join our Teams Meeting, go to our web page:

<https://go.usa.gov/xsWRT> and click on “Join.” If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the Join link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning.

Or join by phone: **Call-in number: 915-320-4718 | Conference ID: 859 124 876#**

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Juan Uribe, USIBWC Area Operations Manager, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Levee Status Update** – Joe Vela, Civil Engineer, USIBWC
- **Morillo Drain and Pumping Station - Works Jointly Funded per Minute No. 223 to Control Rio Grande Salinity** – Francisco Martinez, Civil Engineer and Assistant Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- **US-Mexico Cooperation on Rio Grande Water Supply: Minute No. 325 and Mexico’s Rio Grande Water Deliveries to the United States** – Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary, USIBWC
- **Public Comment** (To make public comment, RSVP to Lori Kuczanski, Public Affairs Officer, lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov by noon on March 24)
- **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 information, call 915-494-6027 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov