



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
February 8, 2024

USIBWC SELECTS RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM BOARD MEMBERS, PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 15

Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E., Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), has appointed 11 community leaders to serve on the Rio Grande Citizens Forum Board. The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the public about Commission projects and related activities.

The new board members are:

- **Genevieve Allan, Project Management Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque Office**
- **Brenda Barnes, Environmental Consultant, WSP USA Earth & Environment Inc. (El Paso)**
- **Mark Calamia, Cultural Resources Program Manager, National Park Service**
- **Albert Jaramillo Gonzalez, Council Member, City of Sunland Park**
- **Cassandra Hernandez, City Council Representative, City of El Paso**
- **Katie Kruthaupt, Agricultural Programs & Resources Division, New Mexico Department of Agriculture**
- **Omar Martinez, Chair, Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group**
- **Suleiman Masoud, Owner, Del Rio Engineering**
- **Karla Sofia Mendez, Environmental Microbiologist, Public Health Practitioner**
- **Gilbert Mesa, Utility Manager, Fort Bliss Water Services Co.**
- **Blanca Trout, Board Member, Canutillo Independent School District**

The first public meeting with the new board will be on Thursday, February 15, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. MST at:

**USIBWC Headquarters
4191 N. Mesa St.
El Paso, TX 79902**

The meeting will also be held virtually. To join the Microsoft Teams meeting, go to: <https://msteams.link/JYU0>. If you do not have Teams installed on your device the program will work on any internet browser. It may be helpful for you to test connectivity, prior to the meeting by clicking on the “Join” link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning. Or join by phone: +1 872-240-1286 | Conference ID: 270 244 629#

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting. Go to the Rio Grande Citizens Forum page to view them online: <https://www.ibwc.gov/meetings/category/upper-rio-grande/>.

For more information or if you would like to speak during the public comment period, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Leslie Grijalva at leslie.grijalva@ibwc.gov or 915-832-4770 by noon on February 15.

Leslie Grijalva, Public Affairs Specialist for the USIBWC, will provide the new board members and the public with a brief overview of the agency and its history.

David Duran of the USIBWC will present an overview of Commission activities in the Upper Rio Grande region, including sediment control, levee maintenance and other water management responsibilities.

A complete agenda follows.

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Rio Grande Citizens Forum
Thursday, February 15, 2023, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. MST

USIBWC Headquarters
4191 N. Mesa St.
El Paso, TX 79902
And via [Teams Webinar](#)

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Leslie Grijalva, Public Affairs Specialist
- **Opening Remarks** – Frank Fisher, Director of Public Affairs, USIBWC
- **IBWC Overview & History** – Leslie Grijalva, Public Affairs Specialist
- **Commission Activities in the Upper Rio Grande Region** – David Duran, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC Upper Rio Grande Field Office
- **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 915-832-4770 or email leslie.grijalva@ibwc.gov.

Microsoft Teams meeting

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[+1 872-240-1286,,270244629#](#) United States, Chicago

Phone Conference ID: 270 244 629#