



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
March 15, 2023

### **RIO GRANDE WATER DELIVERIES AND WATER QUALITY TO BE PRESENTED AT MARCH 15 PUBLIC MEETING**

The United States Section of the [International Boundary and Water Commission](#) (USIBWC) is pleased to announce that it will host a public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum on **March 15, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. CDT via webinar**. The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission activities and related matters in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

At the meeting, USIBWC Legal Advisor Jennifer Peña will introduce a white paper titled “The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Water Deliveries under the 1944 Water Treaty: A Compendium of Ideas.” The white paper will inform the Commission’s effort this year to develop a U.S.-Mexico agreement known as a Minute to improve the predictability and reliability of Rio Grande water deliveries to users in both countries.

The white paper, prepared by Kathy Robb with Robb Water Partners, includes background information on the physical attributes of the Rio Grande, the pertinent law under the Treaty and Minutes, and relevant U.S., Mexico, and Texas law. The heart of the paper is information from a series of interviews with stakeholders in the U.S. and Mexico about the challenges and potential solutions to improve the predictability and reliability of Rio Grande water deliveries below Fort Quitman. The paper also summarizes the many projects and possibilities that have been suggested over the years to improve the Rio Grande. It is a resource for stakeholders to broaden their knowledge as the USIBWC considers during the Minute development process how best to further reliable, predictable water deliveries, rather than a recommendation for any particular course of action. The paper will be published on the USIBWC web page on March 13, 2023 at <https://bit.ly/3ZNLCNy> for the full version of the report, and at <https://bit.ly/3F1zoZG> for the executive summary of the report.

In other business, Lisa Torres, USIBWC Environmental Protection Specialist, will present on the water quality of the Rio Grande in the Lower Rio Grande Valley as part of the USIBWC Texas Clean Rivers Program. Torres will share insights on the collection of water quality information throughout the Rio Grande Basin and discuss the routine monitoring of the Rio Grande that continued as normal through the pandemic and after, with no lapse in monitoring.

The public meeting will be held virtually. To join the Microsoft Teams meeting, go to: <https://bit.ly/LRGCF>. Click on the “Join” button. 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: 1-872-240-1286 Conference ID: 449494753#

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting. Go to the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum page <https://bit.ly/LRGCF>. Look for the links for the 3/15/2023 meeting. If you would like to speak during public comment, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Sumner Corbett at [sumnercorbett@rational360.com](mailto:sumnercorbett@rational360.com) or 434-466-2266 by noon on March 15.

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**LOWER RIO GRANDE USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**  
**3:00 – 5:00 p.m. CST**  
**Teams Webinar**

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

<https://bit.ly/LRGCF> and click on the “Join” button. 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: 1-872-240-1286 Conference ID: 449494753#

**Agenda**

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Carlos Sanchez, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Remarks from the Commissioner** – Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E., Commissioner, USIBWC
- **Texas Clean Rivers Program Rio Grande Basin Update, Water Quality Monitoring Results, and Related Matters** – Lisa Torres, Environmental Protection Specialist, Texas Clean Rivers Program for the Rio Grande Basin, USIBWC
- **Rio Grande Water Treaty Issues and Opportunities (New USIBWC White Paper)** – Jennifer Peña, Legal Advisor, 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 434-466-2266 or email [sumnercorbett@rational360.com](mailto:sumnercorbett@rational360.com)