



International Boundary and Water Commission
United States Section
Public Affairs Office

For immediate release
June 9, 2025

**USIBWC ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR UPPER RIO GRANDE
CITIZENS FORUM BOARD**

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is accepting applications for board members to serve on the **Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum board (URGCF)**. The forum provides a structured, public setting for dialogue and collaboration on USIBWC projects and activities in the Upper Rio Grande region.

The URGCF is composed of volunteer board members who represent a broad range of perspectives and expertise. The board meets three times per year in the El Paso, Texas / Las Cruces, New Mexico area.

Selected board members will serve a two-year term, contributing to discussions on cross-border water and environmental issues and helping enhance public understanding of the USIBWC's mission and initiatives.

Individuals interested in issues affecting the Rio Grande are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is June 30, 2025.

To apply, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/g/iYzH2z4bRa>

For questions or additional information, please contact: Frankie Pinon, Public Affairs Officer, at (915) 471-2980 or by email at frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov

**CANDIDATE APPLICATION FOR
USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM BOARD**





International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
June 3, 2025

USIBWC Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum Public Meeting in Las Cruces on June 9

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum board will host an in-person and virtual public meeting on:

Monday, June 9, 2025, from 6-8 p.m. MDT

- **USIBWC Area Operations Manager David Duran** will provide updates to flood plain operations, recycling and recent water releases.
- **USIBWC Civil Engineer Luz Favela** will provide an update on the American Canal Lower Reach Replacement Project.

The public meeting will be held in person at:

Doña Ana County Government Center, Commission Chambers
845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88007

The public meeting will also be held virtually. [Click here to join the meeting](#). 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: +1 915-320-4718, conference ID: 911 973 20#

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting. Go to the USIBWC Citizens Forum page at <https://www.ibwc.gov/citizens-forums-past-meetings/> and click on the Upper Rio Grande Citizen Forum tab.

If you would like to speak during the public comment period, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Frankie Pinon at frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov or 915-832-4716 by noon on Friday, June 6, 2025.

Media Contact :

Frankie Pinon
Email: frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov
Phone: 915-832-4716

UPPER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Monday, June 9, 2025, from 6-8 p.m. MDT

**Doña Ana County Government Center, Commission Chambers
845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88007
And via Teams Webinar**

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions – USIBWC Citizens Forum Board**
- **USIBWC Supervisory Civil Engineer Andrea Glover will provide an update on the American Canal Lower Reach Replacement Project**
- **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 915-832-4716 or email frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device: [Click here to join the meeting.](#)

Meeting ID: 238 919 559 924

Passcode: gq3xG2gn

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 915-320-4718,,91197320#

Phone conference ID: 911 973 20#



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

UNITED STATES SECTION

Upper Rio Grande – O&M FY25 Updates

Mr. David Duran

Mr. David Casares



LAS CRUCES



OPERATIONS





DEBRIS REMOVAL



Providing binational solutions along the U.S.-Mexico Border



IRRIGATION





WATER SEASON STARTED





AMERICAN DAM/ EL PASO



AMERICAN DAM





FT. HANCOCK



FORT HANCOCK





PRODUCTION YTD FY25

Sediment Removal:

- Goal 275,000 cy
- YTD 164,000 cy
- Disposal to date 104,000 cy
 - No Cost Agreements

Vegetation Mowing/Mulching:

- Goal 6,200 acres
- YTD 4,900

Levee grading and repairs:

- Goal 274 miles
- YTD 209 miles



WANT FREE DIRT? Scan the Code!



Questions?



Thank you!



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

UNITED STATES SECTION

American Canal Replacement Project Update

Luz Favela



HISTORY OF AMERICAN CANAL

- Constructed in 1938 at same time as American Dam to allocate water to Mexico in accordance with Treaty of 1906 (*Convention between the United States and Mexico, Equitable Distribution of the Waters of the Rio Grande*)
- Mexico's treaty allotment of water is allowed to flow past American Dam while the rest of the Rio Grande's water is diverted into American Canal.
- Entered service June 2, 1938



HISTORY OF AMERICAN CANAL

- American Canal provides irrigation water to over 58,130 acres El Paso County Water Improvement District #1's constituents in the El Paso Valley
- American Canal provides up to 70,000 acre-feet of drinking water to EPWater



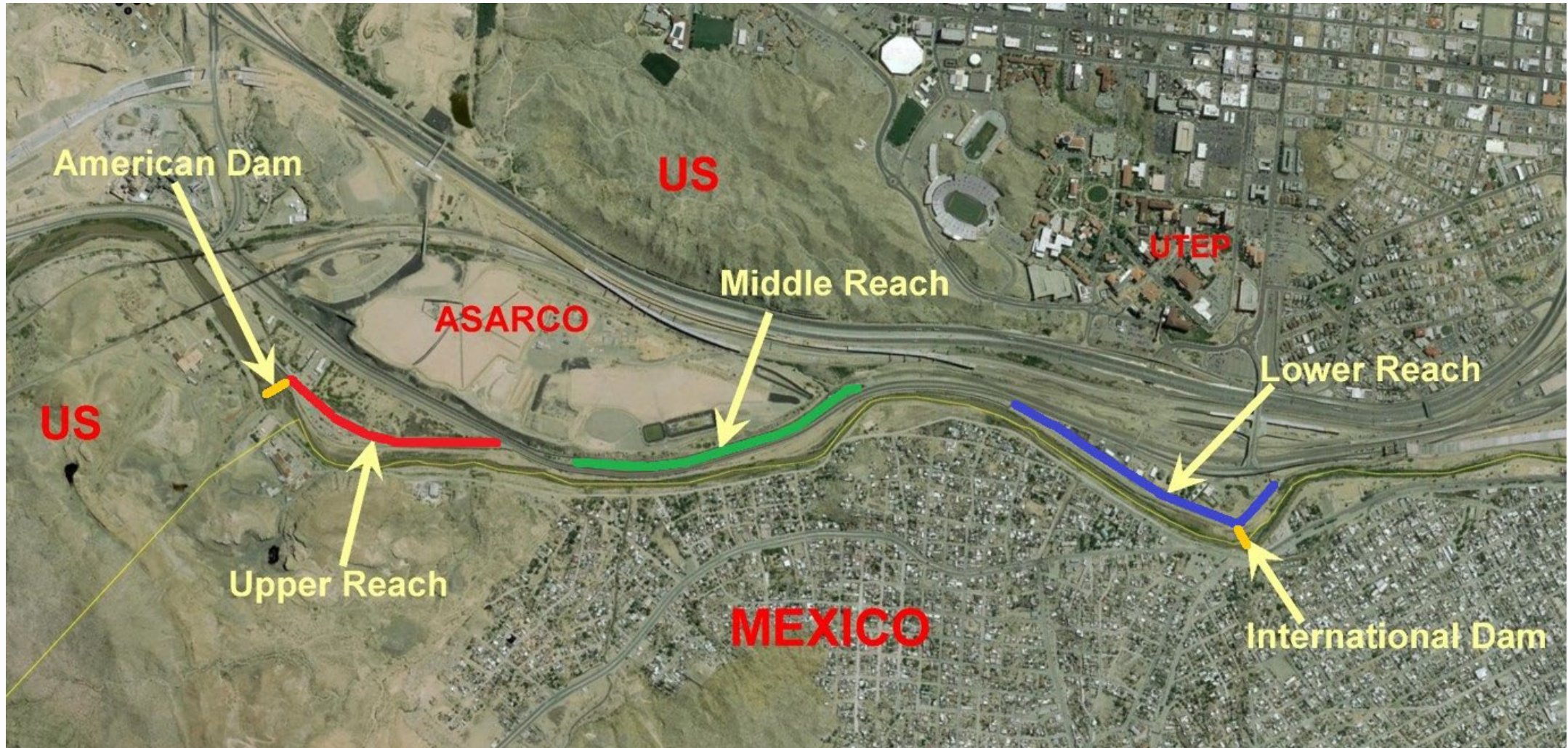
JUSTIFICATION FOR REPLACEMENT

- American Canal is being replaced due to risk of failure caused by cracked concrete, exposed and rusted rebar, and soil voids behind the existing lining.





AMERICAN CANAL REACHES





AMERICAN CANAL REPLACEMENT

UPPER REACH REPLACEMENT COMPLETED JANUARY 2020

- The pre-existing canal had no safety features. The new canal has four sets of safety ladders, two safety cables, handrails adjacent to the bridges and trash rack, and vehicular guardrail along both sides of the canal.

Feature	Original	Reconstructed	
		STA 0+66 to 10+90	STA 11+40 to 23+35
Bottom Width	12 ft	12 ft	24 ft
Depth	10 ft	11.5 ft	12 ft
Shape	Trapezoid	Trapezoid	Rectangular
Concrete Thickness	3"	6" sloped walls 10" invert	15" walls 24" invert
Capacity	1200 cfs	1545 cfs	1560 cfs



AMERICAN CANAL REPLACEMENT

UPPER REACH



6/1938

Entering service



4/2014

76 years old



3/2020

**Entering service
after being rebuilt**



AMERICAN CANAL REPLACEMENT

LOWER REACH

- **American Canal Lower Reach Replacement**

Contractor: Odin Environmental Solutions, Inc. (*dba Odin*)

Notice to Proceed (NTP): August 29, 2023

Substantial Completion Required By: June 4, 2027

Contract Price: \$90,352,323.00

- 2,518 linear feet of 24 ft wide arch culverts
- 511 linear feet of 24 ft wide 15 ft deep U-channel
- 2 ramps for O&M to enter Canal
- Safety ladders and safety cables
- 1,600 linear feet of handrails



AMERICAN CANAL REPLACEMENT

LOWER REACH

- The Lower Reach of American Canal extends through an area of rich cultural history. Portions of old Fort Bliss were used to originally construct the canal and two buildings that were once bachelor officer's quarters still stand adjacent to the canal.
- Near the downstream end of the project sits the location of Hart's Mill which began operations in the 1850s. This area is also near the location where Juan de Oñate crossed the Rio Grande in 1598.
- Because of the vast history of the area and the very real possibility of finding items of cultural significance, USIBWC has hired a cultural resource specialist to oversee all ground disturbing activities.



AMERICAN CANAL REPLACEMENT

LOWER REACH

- Work Conducted During Season 1 (October 2024 - April 2025)

- Permanent Precast Arch Channel
- Permanent U-Channel
- Temporary Secant Walls and Seal Slab





AMERICAN CANAL REPLACEMENT

LOWER REACH

- The pre-existing canal had a single safety cable. The new canal has two sets of safety ladders, two safety cables, handrails along all U-Channel walls, and two access ramps for maintenance.

Feature	Original	Reconstructed	
		STA 79+60 to 104+79	STA 104+79 to 110+79
Bottom Width	12 ft	24 ft	24 ft
Depth	10 ft	12 ft and 14 ft	15 ft
Shape	Trapezoid	Precast Arch	Rectangular
Concrete Thickness	3"	6" sloped walls 10" invert	24" walls 24" invert
Capacity	1535 cfs	1820 cfs	1828 cfs



AMERICAN CANAL REPLACEMENT

LOWER REACH



- U-Channel

- Precast Arch Channel and Temporary Secant Walls





AMERICAN CANAL REPLACEMENT

LOWER REACH

- Precast arch culverts will extend 2,518 feet downstream from Paisano forming a closed culvert.





AMERICAN CANAL REPLACEMENT

MIDDLE REACH

- Narrow work area between BNSF tracks and Paisano Drive
- Contaminated soil and groundwater





INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION UNITED STATES SECTION

4191 N. Mesa
El Paso, TX 79902

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American Canal information at:

<http://www.ibwc.gov/resources-info/American-Canal.pdf>

<http://www.ibwc.gov/resources-info/American-Canal-Upper.pdf>

<http://www.ibwc.gov/resources-info/American-Canal-Lower.pdf>



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