

International Boundary and Water Commission

United States and Mexico

United States Section

4191 N. Mesa, El Paso, TX 79902



Sunland Park West Levee Repair

Contract Number: 191BWC19C0010
Contractor: Fisher Sand & Gravel Co
Notice to Proceed (NTP): November 14, 2019
Substantial Completion: June 11, 2021
Awarded Contract Price: \$6,392,200
Miles: 2.8

A 100 year event is a flood that has a 1% chance of happening in any given year.

Sunland Park Levee Repair

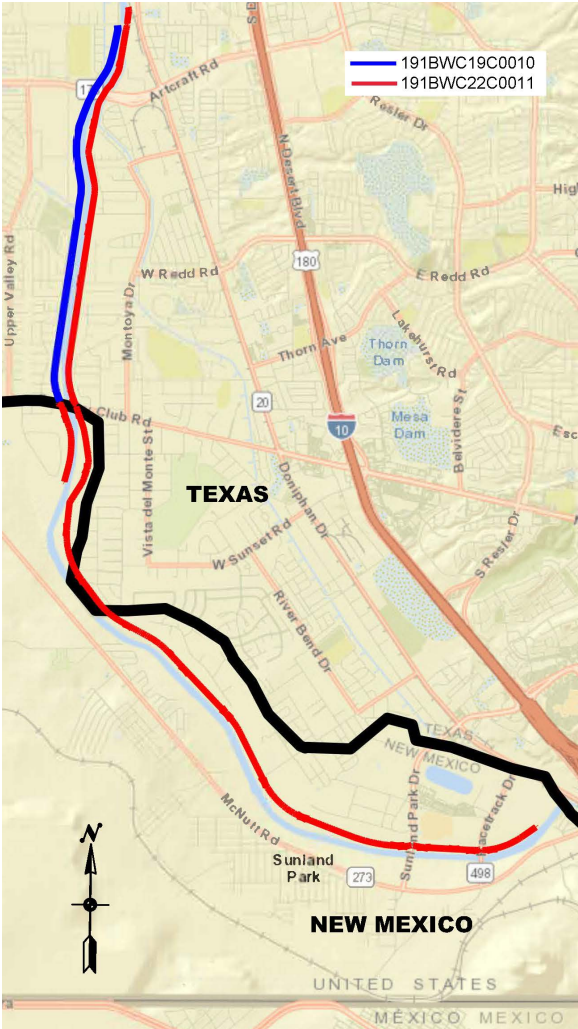
Contract Number: 191BWC22C0011
Contractor: Odin Construction Solutions, LLC
Notice to Proceed (NTP): November 8, 2022
Substantial Completion: March 2025
Awarded Contract Price: \$34,800,627
Miles: 9.0

The Sunland Park Levee is part of USIBWC's Rio Grande Canalization Project (RGCP). The RGCP was originally constructed between 1938 and 1943 and includes USIBWC levees in New Mexico and Texas from just downstream of Caballo Dam to American Dam. When the RGCP was originally built, there were almost no homes adjacent to the levees. Now most of the Sunland Park Levee is adjacent to houses. As part of USIBWC's goal to rehabilitate all of our levees in the Rio Grande Canalization Project to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements, multiple contracts have been issued to reconstruct the levees from Borderland Bridge in El Paso's Upper Valley downstream to almost the Nemexas Siphon on the west levee and to the El Paso Electric Power Plant on the east levee. The levees through this reach weave their way through Texas (City of El Paso) and New Mexico (City of Sunland Park) and traverse four bridges (Borderland, Country Club, Sunland Park, and Racetrack).

While work is primarily focused on rebuilding the levees to fully meet FEMA requirements and reduce the flood threat of a 100 year event in the Rio Grande, other work is also included. Other work consists of blocking access to USIBWC's levee to prevent unauthorized access, installing new notice signs, upgrading some irrigation structures that transverse the levee, and cleaning out the Montoya Intercepting Drain. The Elephant Butte Irrigation District and USIBWC have entered into an agreement to use the Montoya Intercepting Drain as an aquatic habitat. Cleaning the drain out will reestablish the drain to its conditions about 15 years ago providing deeper pools for aquatic species. The cleaning will also remove built up saltcedar.

When USIBWC performed levee work on this reach in 2010-12, a floodgate was installed on the eastside of the Country Club Bridge. This gate produces a low frequency bang whenever a car drives over it. The heavy traffic on Country Club Road also caused the floodgate to break well before its estimated life expectancy. To alleviate these issues, the floodgate is being removed. Both the eastside and westside of the Country Club Bridge will be protected from flood flows via stoplogs. These stoplogs will only be installed if needed based upon the level of the Rio Grande. Two storage containers (one on each side of the river) will be installed to store the stoplogs and have them readily accessible in case of flooding.

Unauthorized access by motorized vehicles damages our levees and the floodplain. There are several areas where USIBWC is trying to restore floodplain vegetation. This vegetation can be easily damaged when driven over. Pedestrian, bicycle, and horseback access is allowed and we encourage people to visit the levees and the Rio Grande floodplain.



Sunland Park Levees shown in red and blue.



Personnel getting ready to perform test to verify the level of compaction of the western levee. 1/16/2020

Typical USIBWC Notice Signs placed at access points to the Sunland Park Levee

People observing unauthorized vehicular traffic can call the appropriate County Sheriff's Office



Beaver swimming in Montoya Intercepting Drain 1/19/2011



Current conditions of Montoya Intercepting Drain 1/26/2022