INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, UNITED STATES SECTION

Lower Rio Grande Citizens' Forum Orientation

July 25, 2007, Mercedes, TX

STRUCTURE PER 1944 TREATY

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION (IBWC)

MEXICAN SECTION

- Mexican Commissioner
- Secretary
- Two Principal Engineers
- Legal Adviser

US SECTION

- US Commissioner
- Secretary
- Two Principal Engineers
- Legal Adviser

IBWC STRUCTURE

- Decisions of the Commission shall be recorded in the form of Minutes
- Minutes are subject to approval by the Governments (State, SRE) and are binding
- 312 IBWC Minutes

MISSION OF THE USIBWC

Our mission is to provide boundary, water and environmental solutions along the United States-Mexico border region through leadership, binational cooperation, and future sustainability in a manner that is responsive to stakeholders.

IBWC OFFICES ON THE BORDER

CONVENTION OF 1906

- Distribution between Mexico and the U.S. of the waters of the Rio Grande in the El Paso-Juarez region
- U.S. to deliver 60,000 acre-feet per year
- Proportional reduction in deliveries in case of extraordinary drought
- Water stored in Elephant Butte Dam, NM

BOUNDARY TREATIES

- **Convention of 1933/Rio Grande Rectification Project** – Stabilize the international boundary in the El Paso-Juarez Valley
- **Chamizal Convention** (1963) – Relocate the Rio Grande in a new channel in El Paso-Juarez

RIO GRANDE RECTIFICATION PROJECT IN THE EL PASO-JUAREZ VALLEY

RIVER BED AND RECTIFIED CHANNEL

BOUNDARY TREATIES

- **Treaty of 1970**
  - Maintain the Rio Grande and Colorado River as the international boundary
  - Border defined as the middle of the channel of greatest average width
  - Procedures to restore the border when the river shifts
  - Prohibits obstruction or deflection of normal or flood flows of the river

BOUNDARY TREATIES

- **Treaty of 1970**
  - Resolved pending boundary disputes
  - Relocated river in Lower Rio Grande upstream from Hidalgo-Reynosa
    - 482 acres ceded to U.S.
  - Horcon Tract and Beaver Island ceded to Mexico (482 acres)
  - Relocated Rio Grande at Presidio-Ojinaga

1944 WATER TREATY
Colorado River

- U.S. to deliver to Mexico a volume of 1.5 million acre-feet per year
- When there are surplus waters, U.S. to deliver to Mexico a total volume of up to 1.7 million acre-feet per year

1944 WATER TREATY

(Rio Grande, Ft. Quitman to the Gulf)

- Mexico to deliver annual average of 350,000 acre-feet to U.S. in cycles of five years
- U.S. allotted 1/3 of water arriving in Rio Grande from 6 Mexican tributaries
- Flows from unmeasured tributaries shared 50-50
- Two international storage dams

CURRENT PROJECTS

COLORADO RIVER

- International Task Force, Five Work Groups:
  - Sediment
  - Salinity
  - Carrying capacity and boundary preservation
  - Colorado River Delta
  - All-American Canal Lining
- Task force includes participation of Bureau of Reclamation, Mexico's National Water Commission (Conagua)

MORELOS DAM

- Located west of Yuma near Algodones
- Constructed in 1950
- 1400 feet long
- 20 gates
- Diverts Colorado River water to Mexico
- Mexico covers all costs

UPPER RIO GRANDE PROJECTS

- Canalization Project
  - Water delivery and flood control, S. NM and El Paso, TX
- Chamizal Project
  - Boundary stabilization at El Paso, TX-Cd. Juarez
- Two diversion dams

American Dam, El Paso

CHAMIZAL PROJECT

RIO GRANDE RECTIFICATION PROJECT

- El Paso, TX to Fort Quitman, TX
- Flood protection and boundary stabilization
- 85 miles of U.S. levees

INTERNATIONAL STORAGE DAMS

- Amistad Dam (Del Rio, TX)
- Falcon Dam (Falcon Heights, TX)
- Purposes
  - Flood Control
  - Recreation
  - Hydroelectric Power
  - Water Supply

AMISTAD DAM

OTHER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

- Presidio, TX
- Tijuana River
- Lower Rio Grande

CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM (U.S.)

- Established under cooperative agreement between USIBWC and State of TX (1998)
- 72+ stations on the Rio Grande and tributaries
- Water quality monitored by USIBWC and other partners

SANITATION PROJECTS

- 3 international wastewater treatment plants
  - San Diego, CA
  - Nogales, AZ
  - Nuevo Laredo, Tamps.

Nuevo Laredo TP effluent

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND BORDER CROSSINGS

- International bridges (34+)
- Border Crossings/Ports on the land boundary (23+)
- Crossing of utility/service lines (43+)
- Review border infrastructure projects to ensure no deflection of surface water

BOUNDARY MONUMENTS

- 258 principal monuments between El Paso-Cd. Juarez and the Pacific Ocean
- Hundreds of intermediate boundary markers
- Official demarcation of the boundary

MAINTENANCE OF BOUNDARY MONUMENTS

PURPOSE OF THE CITIZENS' FORUM

- To facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the local community regarding ongoing and future USIBWC projects in the area
- The Citizens' Forum is intended to bring together community members enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, government agencies, irrigation districts, municipalities, etc.

CITIZENS' FORUM BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

- Attend public meetings four times per year
- Meetings in Hidalgo or Cameron County
- Board term is for two years
- Board members are expected to be available to the public to facilitate the exchange of information

CITIZENS' FORUM BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

- Review and comment on technical documents and activities associated with USIBWC projects in the area
- Discuss plans and issues related to ongoing and future USIBWC projects
- RGCF is not a federal advisory board; goal is to exchange information and to receive feedback from a diversity of viewpoints
- Members serve as volunteers. There is no reimbursement for expenses.

CITIZENS' FORUM LEADERSHIP

- Two Co-Chairs
- USIBWC Co-Chair
  - Project Manager Rick Reyes
- Community Co-Chair
  - Selected by the board

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

USIBWC
HEADQUARTERS

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