Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project

Arroyo Colorado Post Flood Cleanup

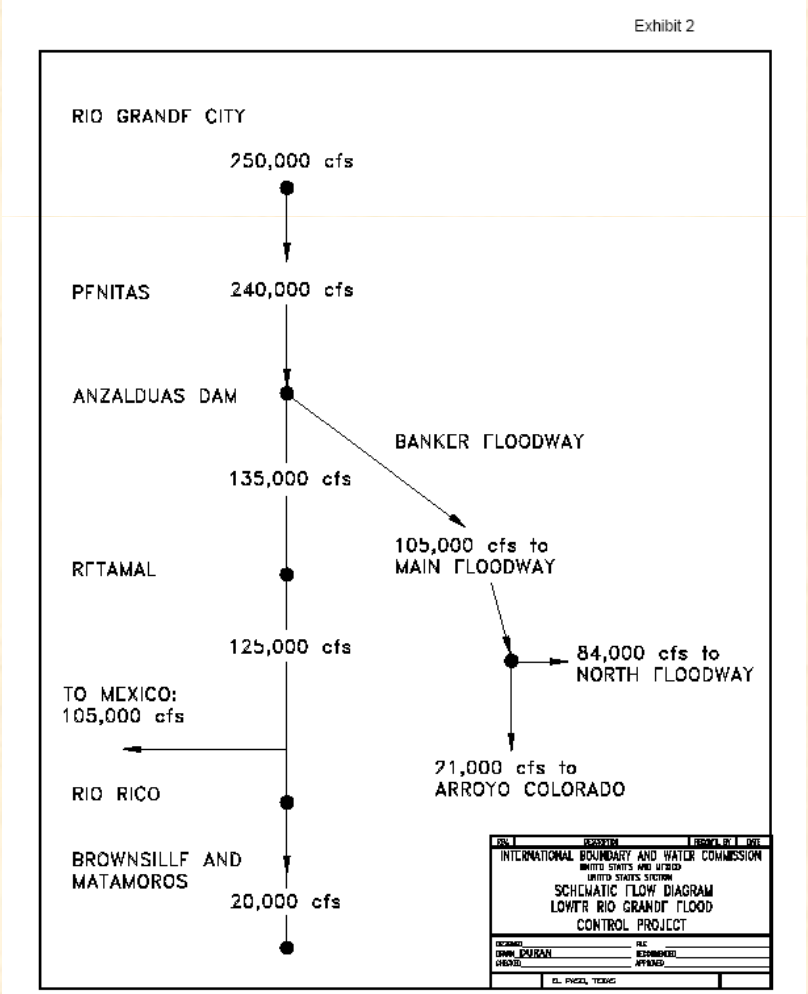
September 27, 2011

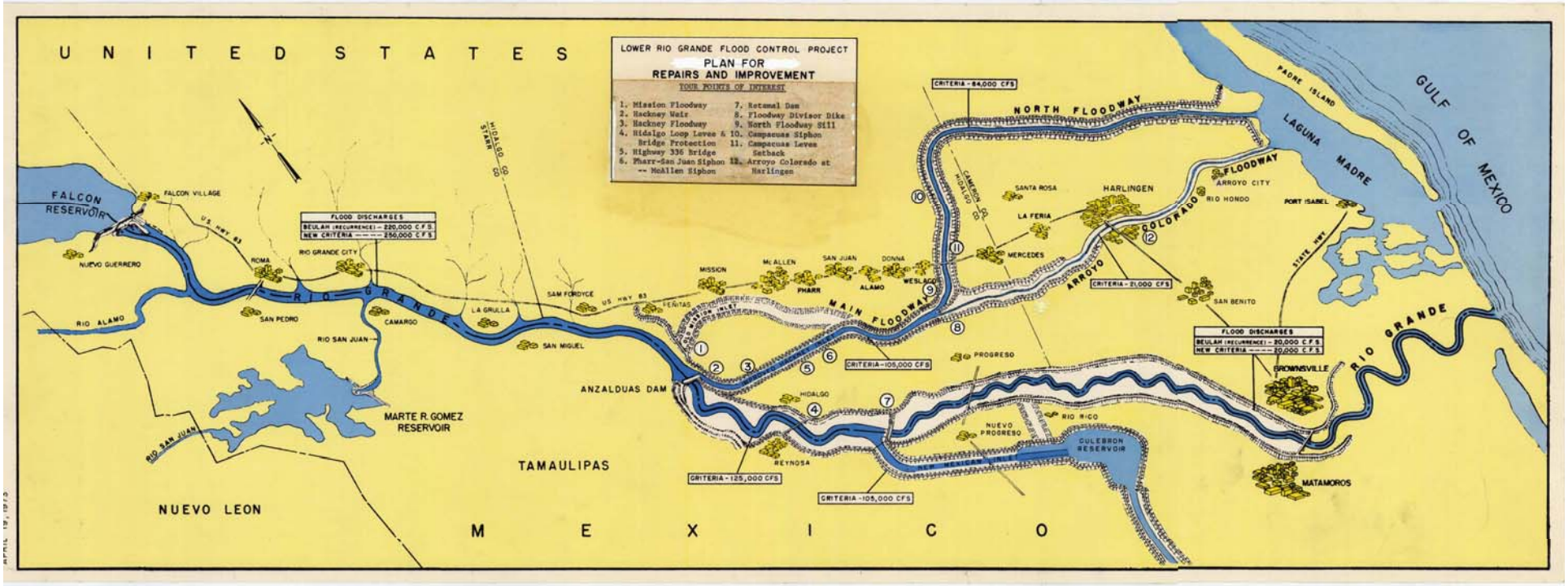
Schematic Flow Diagram
Lower Rio Grande Valley

Mexico and the United States equally divide flood flows

The Arroyo Colorado is required to convey 21,000 cfs

During Hurricane Alex, on July 22, 2010, the Arroyo Colorado flow measured 5,460 cfs, with limited freeboard demonstrating the need to improve its hydraulic efficiency

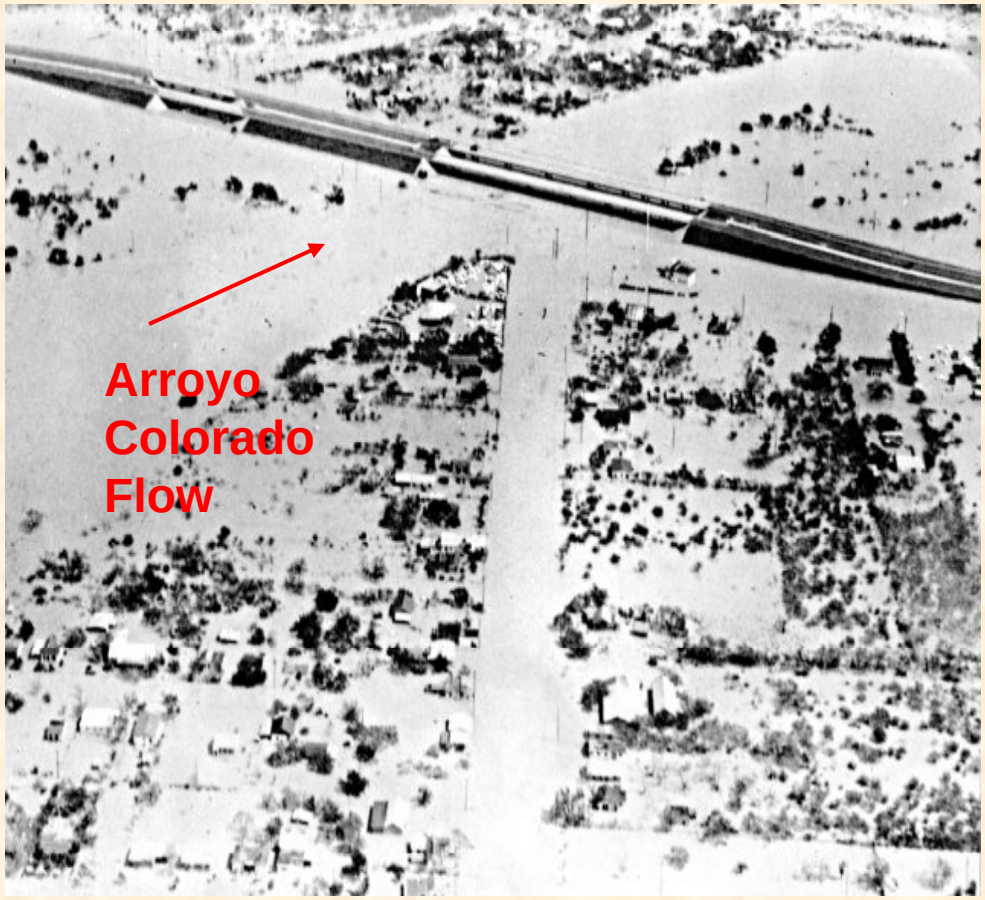




Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project

Arroyo Colorado - History

- **Hurricane Beulah September 1967 flooded Harlingen via the Arroyo Colorado**



Hwy 77 At Arroyo Colorado

Arroyo Colorado - History

- **A weir failed causing 60,000 cfs to flow into the Arroyo Colorado**

Flooding Harlingen, Texas, 1967

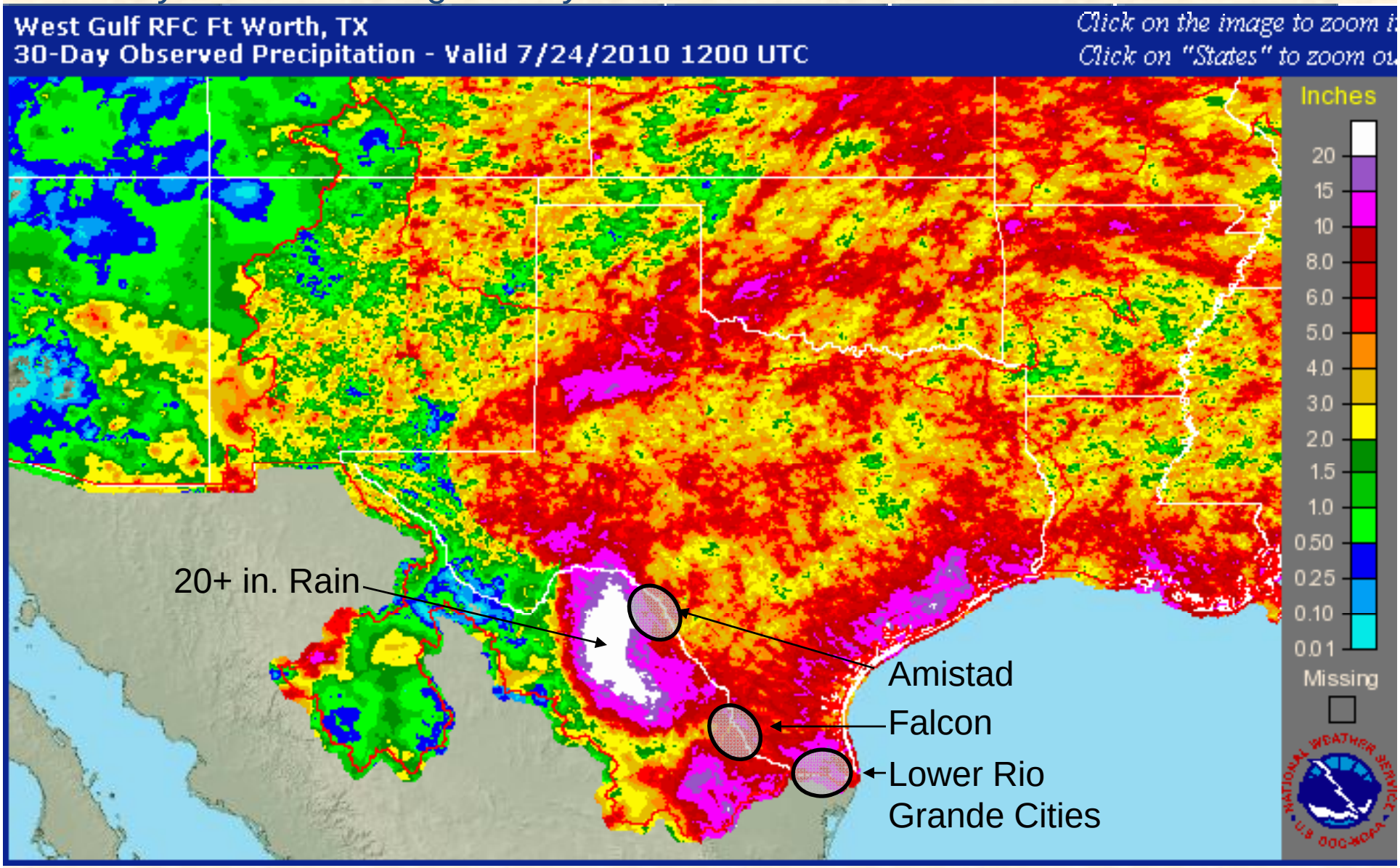
Arroyo Colorado - History

- **A Divisor Dike was constructed in 1968 to ensure the arroyo will receive its design flow of 21,000 cfs during a major event**

Divisor Dike, Hurricane Alex, Arroyo Colorado, Mercedes, Texas

Hurricane Alex / Tropical Depression #2 Impacts

30-Day Rainfall Ending 24 July 2010



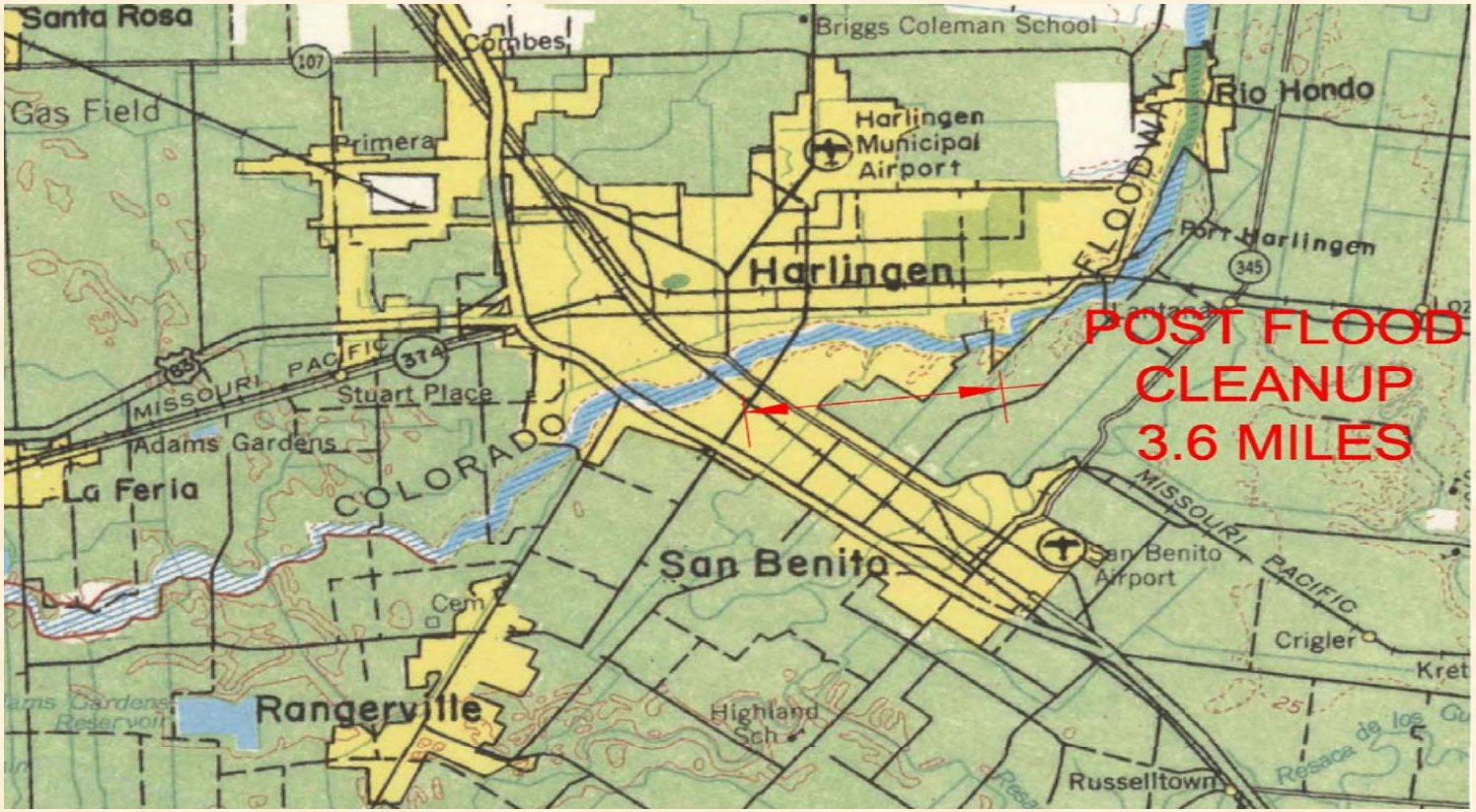
Arroyo Colorado at McKelvy Park

Arroyo Colorado @ Business 77

- SHORT TERM ACTIONS
- LONG TERM ACTIONS

Arroyo Colorado - Post Flood Cleanup

Short Term Project: Remove Dead Trees and Trash



Arroyo Colorado Hwy 77 to FM 509
3.64 miles

Arroyo Colorado - Post Flood Cleanup
McKelvey Park

Before 11/04/2010

After 09/19/2011

Arroyo Colorado - Post Flood Cleanup
McKelvey Park Pictures

09/19/2011

09/19/2011

Arroyo Colorado - Post Flood Cleanup
Ed Carey

Up Stream of Ed Carey
09/19/2011

Down Stream of Ed Carey
09/19/2011

Arroyo Colorado – Immediate and Long Term Project Schedule

Immediate Project

Remove Dead Trees (Chipper)	- April 2011 Through Current
Environmental Monitor	- Contract Through December 2011

Long Term Project

Conduct Hydraulic Analysis Consultant's Preliminary Cross Sections COMPLETED	Spring 2012
Research Alternatives • Redirect Flow • Restore Hydraulic efficiency • Coordinate with Resource Agencies	Summer 2012
Environmental Documentation (NEPA Process)	Late 2012 – Early 2013
Construct Improvements	2013

Questions?

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

Contact Information

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