EL MORILLO SALINITY CONTROL PROJECT

Mr. Carlos Peña
Principal Engineer, US Section

IBWC Minutes

- Minute No. 223 – Measure for Solution of the Lower Rio Grande Salinity Problem.
  - provides background, identifies issues, alternatives, preferred alternative, but does not commit.
  - El Morillo Drain waters – *"because of their high salinity despite the fact that they increase the volume of Lower Rio Grande waters, do not increase their beneficial value but on the contrary diminish that value; and that it is of interest to the two countries to preserve the beneficial value of the waters of the Rio Grande by avoiding or correcting their high salt concentrations to the extent it may be practical to do so."*

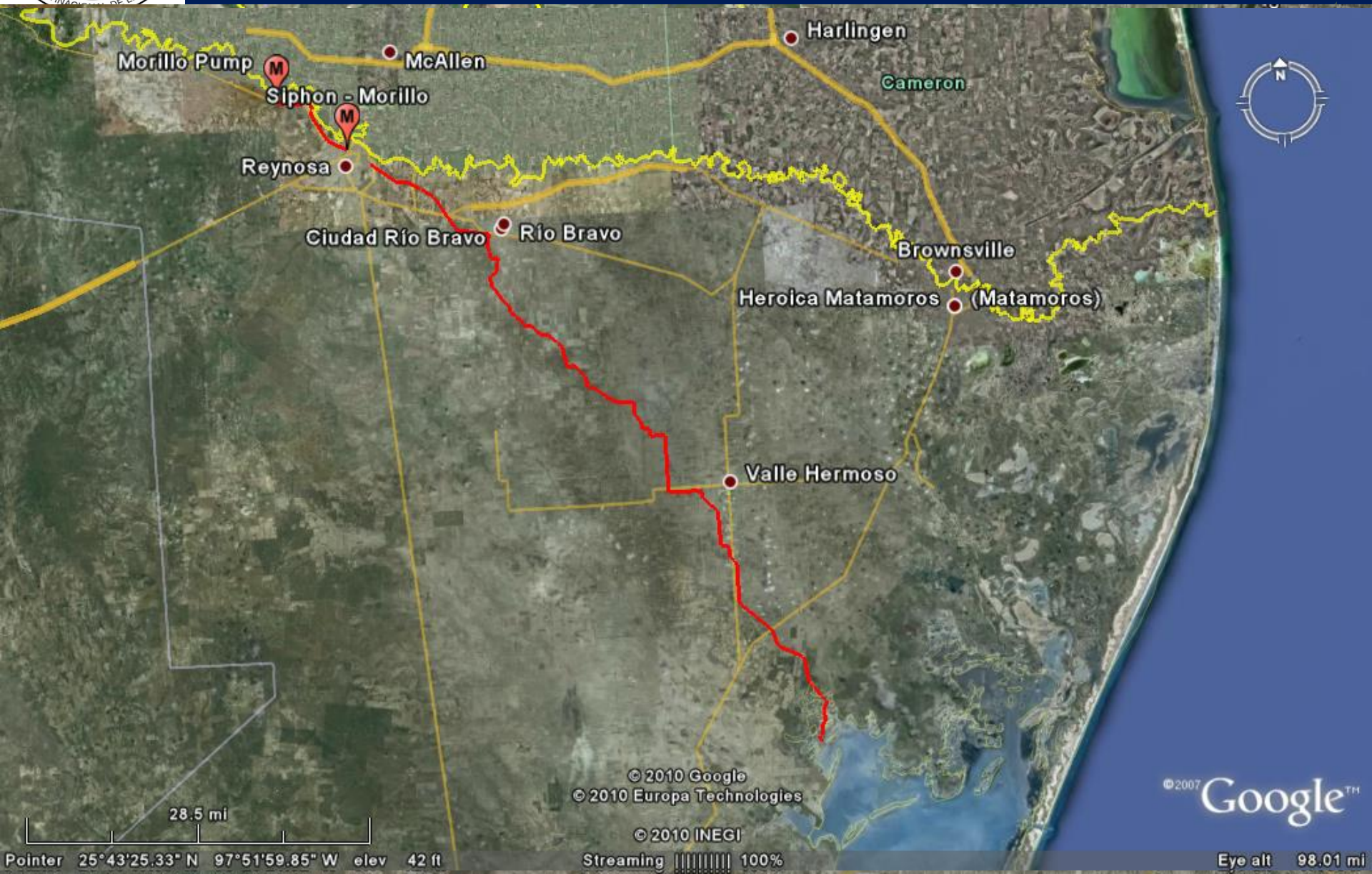
IBWC Minutes (continued)

- Minute No. 303 – Operation and Maintenance of the Jointly – Financed Works for Solution of the Lower Rio Grande Salinity Problem
  - 2. That the Mexican Section coordinate the execution of the operation and maintenance of the works in Mexico under the terms of an annual work plan developed by the Commission under which the bypass channel will operate at its capacity of 105.9 cfs (3 cms) at all times and will seek to avoid high salinity concentrations in the waters of the Rio Grande upstream of Anzalduas Dam.

Morillo Drain Project

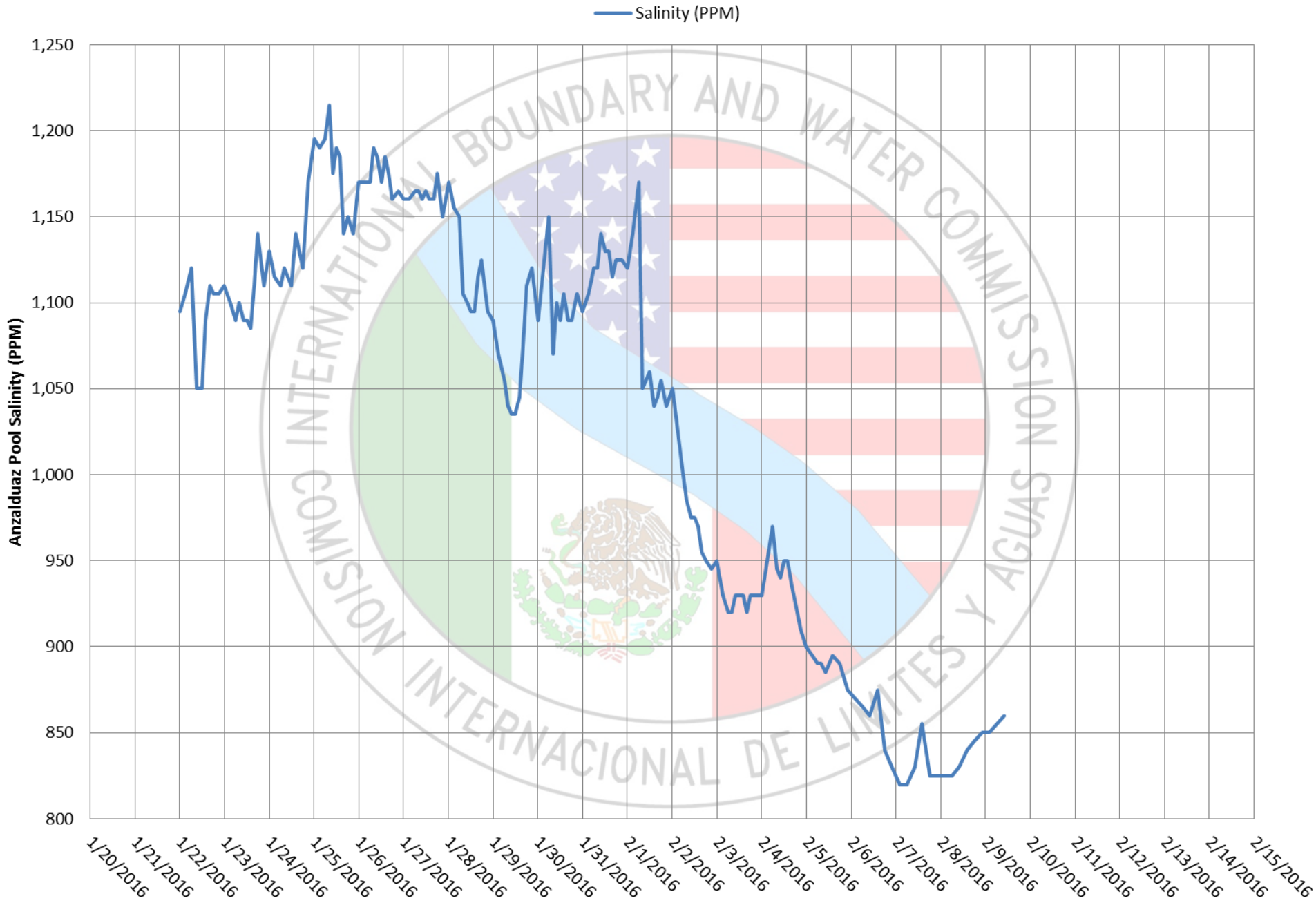
- *Extends for 75 miles through Tamaulipas from 8 miles above Anzalduas Dam to the Gulf of Mexico*
- *Conveys highly saline return flows from a Mexican irrigation district to the Gulf of Mexico*
- *Costs shared by both countries and Lower Rio Grande Valley water users*

Morillo Drain Project



Morillo Drain Project

Anzalduas 2016 Salinity Event



International Boundary & Water Commission - United States Section

El Morillo Pump Upgrade & El Morillo Drain Debris Clean-up

Anhelo Siphon

Before

After

Reynosa-Matamoros Hwy. Siphon

Before

After

El Morillo Pumphouse Upgrades

Control Panel and Pump #1

Well #1 Before Casing Installation

New Casing in Well #1