



USIBWC FUNDING AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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January 28, 2010

San Diego, CA

IBWC MISSION

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries and settling differences that arise in their application.



PROJECTS

IBWC OFFICES ON THE BORDER



IBWC PROJECTS

- 3 international wastewater treatment plants
- 2 international storage dams, reservoirs, hydroelectric power plants
- 500 miles of U.S. flood control levees
- 5 diversion dams
- Canal construction and maintenance
- 276 boundary monuments
- 3 international bridges
- 71 U.S. gaging stations
- 273 USIBWC employees



RIO GRANDE FLOOD CONTROL



Levee construction in El Paso, TX



BOUNDARY DEMARCATATION



Monument No. 199, Yuma County



Mon. 204, San Luis



INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES



**International Cordova – Bridge of the Americas
at El Paso, TX-Ciudad Juarez, Chih.**



INTERNATIONAL DAMS



AMISTAD DAM



International Dam



s Dam



IBWC FUNDING

- FY 2010 Salaries & Expenses (S & E) - \$30 million
- FY 2010 Construction – \$43.2 million
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 - \$220 million for Rio Grande flood control levees
- S & E funding has been stable/increasing slightly
- Construction funding has increased in recent years for levee construction and South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant



IBWC FUNDING PROCESS

- Each Section is funded by its respective federal government
- US fiscal year is Oct. 1 – Sept. 30
- Mexican fiscal year is Jan. 1 – Dec. 31
- USIBWC submits initial proposal 2 years in advance
- USIBWC proposed budget must reflect budget guidance from State Department and OMB who review and approve
- President releases his budget request early in the calendar year
- USIBWC request is not published until released by the President



IBWC FUNDING PROCESS

- USIBWC receives funding through the U.S. Department of State.
- House and Senate each pass their State Department appropriations bills.
- Members of Congress may decrease or increase USIBWC funding.
- Conference report approved by both Houses determines USIBWC funding.
- Appropriations bill often not passed until several months into the fiscal year
- Emergency funding measures may be passed during mid-year (i.e., following a catastrophic flood)



IBWC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- An issue may be identified by IBWC or stakeholders
- A determination is made as to whether the project is authorized by treaty and whether both Sections are interested in developing a joint solution
- IBWC technical staff conduct research and propose a solution
- The proposed project may take the form of a Joint Report of the Principal Engineers with detailed technical recommendations to the Commissioners



IBWC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- The project may require authorizing legislation and funding
- NEPA compliance (EIS) or permitting may be required
- The Joint Report may be adopted as a Minute of the Commission
- Minutes are decisions of the Commission intended to implement the treaty
- Once approved by both Governments (State Department and SRE) a Minute is an agreement legally binding on both Governments
- Over 300 Minutes



MINUTE PROCESS

- USIBWC receives State Dept. authorization to negotiate a Minute
- Circular 175 process of State Department spells out procedures for negotiation and signature of treaties and other international agreements
- Initial draft Minute by Mexico or U.S. may undergo substantial changes during negotiations



MINUTE PROCESS

- Minutes undergo legal review and analysis
- State Department Legal Advisor and Border Affairs Coordinator provide substantive review/comment
- Minutes (and draft Minute) must be translated
- IBWC Secretaries coordinate Minute development/approval
- Process can take months or years



MINUTE PROCESS



IBWC Secretaries and Commissioners sign Minute 315



SAMPLE PROJECT

TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL

- 1944 Water Treaty authorized IBWC to undertake flood control for the Tijuana River
- 1964 - City of San Diego resolution asked USIBWC to undertake the project, affirmed in 1965 and 1971
- 1966 - Public Law 89-640, 80 Stat. 884 authorized USIBWC to conclude an agreement with Mexico for the project
- 1967 – Joint Report of the Principal Engineers proposed a general plan for Tijuana River flood control
- 1967 – Minute No. 225, “Channelization of the Tijuana River”
 - Adopted the Joint Report
 - Called for detailed plans and specs to be developed
 - Stated that financing needed to be in place from both Governments before construction could begin



SAMPLE PROJECT

TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL

- 1970 – Minute No. 236, “Construction of Works for the Channelization of the Tijuana River
 - Modified Minute No. 225 to allow works farther upstream or downstream from the international border to be undertaken in accordance with each country’s schedule and funding
 - Only works immediately adjacent to the international boundary required that funding/construction be done simultaneously
- 1972 – Mexico begins construction
- 1971-1972 – City of San Diego suspended support for the project and requested modifications to reduce the scale of the project and preserve open space in the Tijuana River Valley
- 1973 – USIBWC submitted alternate plans, which were supported by the City



SAMPLE PROJECT

TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL

- 1974 – Draft EIS circulated for public comment
- 1976 – Final EIS, approvals from California Legislature, Resources Agency of California, and San Diego City Council; Congress modified the 1966 authorization
- 1977 – “Joint Report of the Principal Engineers on the Modification of the United States Portion of the Plan for the Channelization of the Tijuana River”
- 1977 – Minute No. 258, adopted the Joint Report
- 1978 – Construction undertaken in U.S.



TIJUANA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL



Tijuana River Flood Control Channel at the international border



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT - SUMMARY

- A problem is identified by IBWC or a stakeholder
- Determine if there is international interest and if authorized by treaty
- Technical solution is proposed by Principal Engineers
- Minute adopted
- Funding requested and obtained
- Project is built



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