



SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM ORIENTATION

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Sahuarita, AZ

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.



HISTORY



EARLY HISTORY OF THE IBWC

- **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)** – Established the international boundary
- **Treaty of December 30, 1853** – Re-established the southern boundary of New Mexico and Arizona
- **Convention of July 29, 1882** – Established a temporary commission to survey the land boundary and establish monuments



EARLY HISTORY OF THE IBWC

- **Convention of Nov. 12, 1884** – Rules to address the location of the boundary when the rivers changed course
- **Convention of March 1, 1889** – Established the International Boundary Commission
- **Banco Convention (1905)** – Modified the 1889 treaty to retain the river boundaries



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



CONVENTION OF 1933

- Stabilized the international boundary in the El Paso-Juarez Valley
- Straightened the river channel
- Flood control levees in both countries
- Rio Grande Rectification Project





RIO GRANDE RECTIFICATION PROJECT IN THE EL PASO-JUAREZ VALLEY



RIVER BED AND RECTIFIED CHANNEL

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

1944 WATER TREATY– RIO GRANDE

- Mexico delivers water to the U.S. in cycles of 5 years
- U.S. receives 1/3 of the flow from 6 Mexican tributaries, a min. annual ave. of 350 kaf
- Treaty authorized construction of up to three storage dams on Rio Grande, only 2 were built



1944 WATER TREATY— COLORADO RIVER

- U.S. to deliver to Mexico a volume of 1.5 million acre-feet/year
- When there are surplus waters, U.S. to deliver up to 1.7 million acre-feet/year
- In extraordinary drought, Mexico reduced in proportion to U.S.



IBWC MINUTES

- Decisions of the Commission are recorded in the form of Minutes
- Minutes are binding agreements of the IBWC intended to implement treaty.
- They take effect once approved by the U.S. Department of State and Mexico's Foreign Affairs Ministry
- Over 300 Minutes



IBWC Commissioners and Secretaries sign Minute 318.



CHAMIZAL CONVENTION (1963)



1970 BOUNDARY TREATY

- IBWC to maintain the Rio Grande and Colorado River as the international boundary
- Boundary is middle of the channel occupied by normal flow or middle of the channel which in normal flows has the greatest average width over its length
- IBWC to delineate the boundary on maps
- IBWC may stabilize or rectify the channel
- Prohibits construction of works that would obstruct or deflect normal or flood flows



Colorado River limitrophe



PROJECTS



USIBWC OFFICES

Upper
San Diego Yuma Nogales Rio Grande Presidio Amistad Falcon
Lower
Rio Grande



SANITATION PROJECTS

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



**South Bay International Wastewater
Treatment Plant
San Diego, CA**

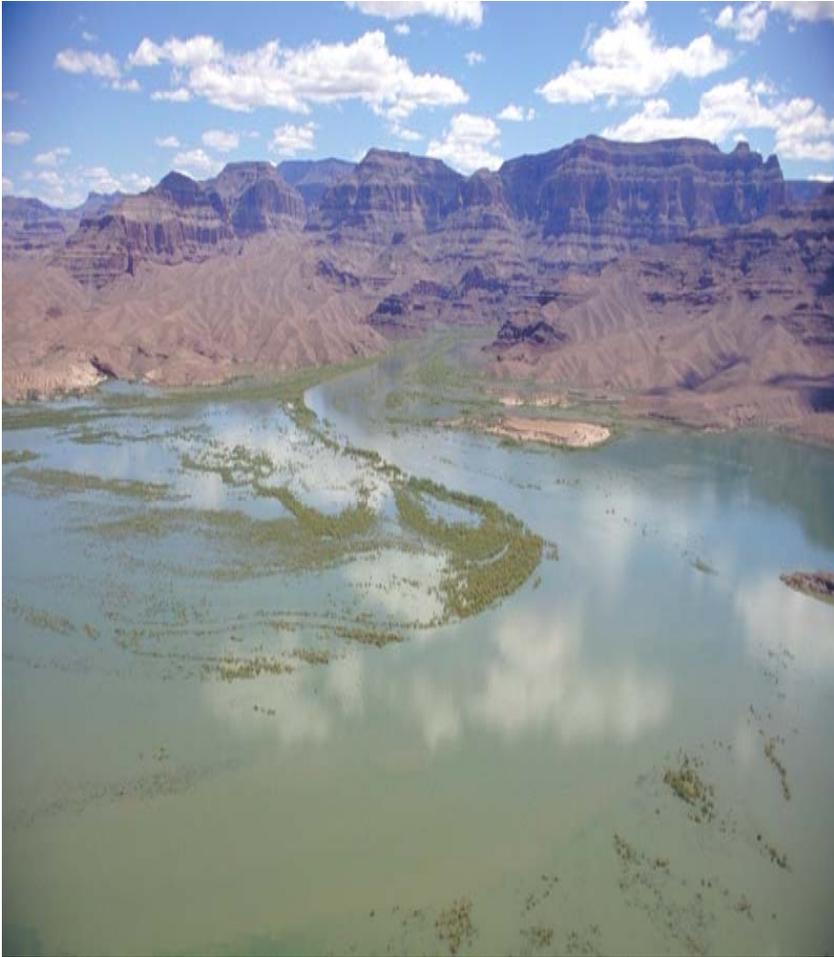
COLORADO RIVER – MIN. 317

- Framework for U.S.-Mexico cooperation on Colorado River
- 4 Work Groups established:
 - Conservation
 - Environment
 - New Water Sources
 - System Operations
- Identify projects to minimize shortage conditions, generate additional volumes, conserve water, permit Mexico to use U.S. infrastructure to store water

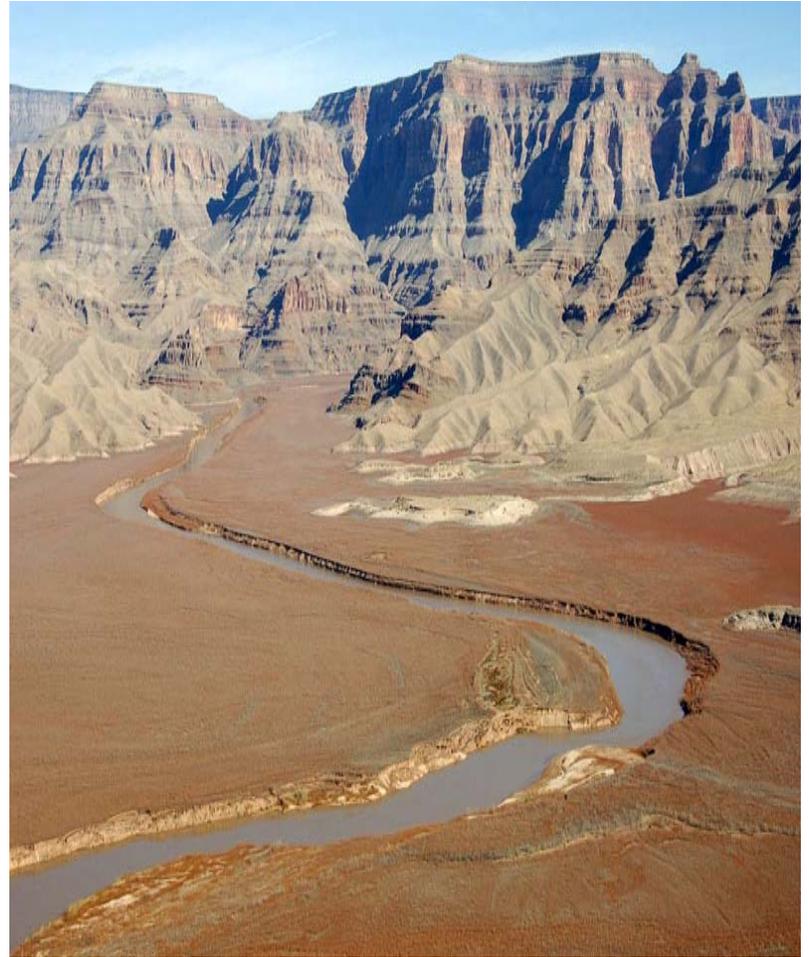


Morelos Dam on the Colorado River

LAKE MEAD



1999



2006

WATER QUALITY

- Treaties do not regulate water quality
- IBWC has conducted binational water quality studies with partners from both countries
- Water quality data is routinely exchanged
- Working on binational water quality database
- Texas Clean Rivers Program for the Rio Grande conducts regular monitoring and publishes reports



Rio Grande sampling



CANALIZATION PROJECT

- Constructed 1938-1943
- 106 miles from Percha Dam to American Dam
- Water delivery and flood control project
- 130 miles of flood control levees
- Sediment control dams on arroyos



Canalization Project, El Paso

UPPER RIO GRANDE PROJECTS



International Dam



CHAMIZAL PROJECT

- Located at El Paso, TX-Cd. Juarez, Chih.
- Concrete-lined channel for 4 miles



RECTIFICATION PROJECT

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



Rectification Project Levee

PRESIDIO PROJECT

- Flood Control Project – 13 river miles
- Water accounting



PRESIDIO PROJECT

- Conchos River flood caused Rio Grande flood at Presidio-Ojinaga in September-October 2008



OTHER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

- Lower Rio Grande
 - 180 river miles
 - 270 miles of U.S. levees
 - 2 diversion dams
- Tijuana River – small project at San Diego-Tijuana



Lower Rio Grande Floodway



RECOVERY ACT

- \$220 M in Recovery Act funding
- Funds to create and save jobs, promote economic recovery, infrastructure for long-term benefit
- Funds used to rehabilitate Rio Grande levees



RECOVERY ACT



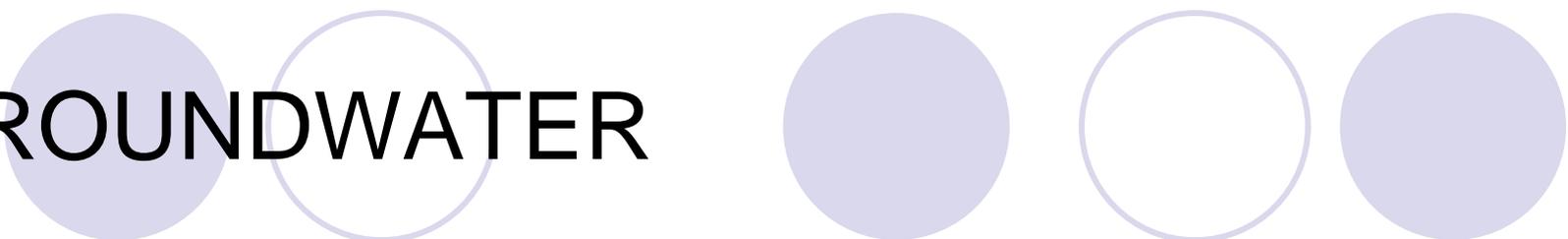
INTERNATIONAL STORAGE DAMS

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



Amistad Dam

GROUNDWATER



- Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act provides for study of border aquifers
- USIBWC Joint Report in 2009 to facilitate U.S.-Mexico exchange of information
- Santa Cruz River Valley and San Pedro River aquifers are priorities for study
- Binational Technical Groups will review study progress

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



**Guadalupe-Tornillo
“Fabens” Bridge**

BOUNDARY DEMARCATATION

- IBWC determines location of and demarcates the boundary
- 258 principal monuments on the land boundary
- Hundreds of intermediate boundary markers
- Boundary demarcation plaques at ports of entry/international bridges
- IBWC maintains the monuments and prepares boundary maps



Tecate Port of Entry



BOUNDARY DEMARCATION



Monument No. 123, Nogales



**Mon. No. 119,
Arizona-Sonora**

BORDER FENCING

- USIBWC coordinates with DHS on border fencing
- Goal is to work with DHS on a project compatible with the missions of both agencies
- Per 1970 Treaty, structures may not obstruct or deflect normal or flood flows of the Rio Grande or Colorado River
- IBWC advises of location of the boundary



**DHS fence along canal
Yuma, AZ**



BORDER FENCING

- U.S. border fencing must be located in the U.S. (at least 2 feet north of boundary)
- IBWC requires access for monument maintenance
- Fencing should not obstruct storm water flows or river flows



Fence construction near Douglas



CITIZENS FORUM



CITIZENS FORUM HISTORY

- Program started in 1999 in Upper Rio Grande
- Expanded to other regions in 2000s
- Citizens Forum Boards:
 - Upper Rio Grande (TX & NM)
 - Lower Rio Grande (TX)
 - Colorado River (CA & AZ)
 - San Diego, CA
 - Southeast Arizona



**Citizens Forum meeting
Rio Rico, AZ**

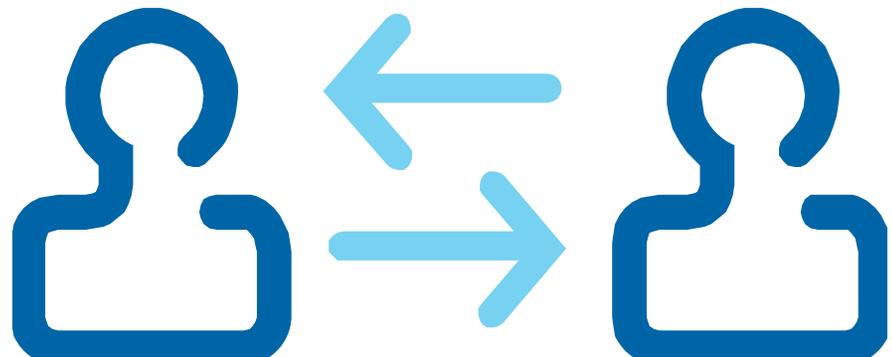
CITIZENS FORUM PURPOSE

- To facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the local community regarding ongoing and future USIBWC projects in the area (Pima, Cochise, Santa Cruz Counties)



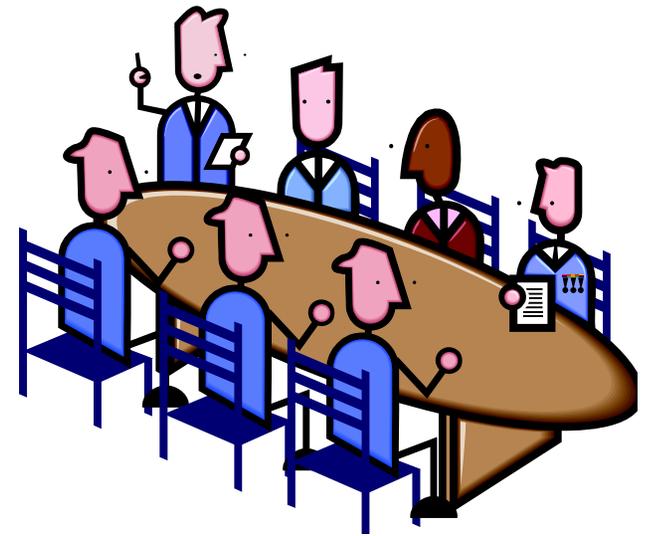
CITIZENS FORUM PURPOSE

- 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, water managers, irrigation districts, government agencies, etc.



BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

- Attend public meetings four times per year
- Meetings to be held at sites in the three counties
- Board term is for two years
- Board members are expected to be available to the public to facilitate the exchange of information



BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

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



CITIZENS FORUM LEADERSHIP

- Two Co-Chairs
- USIBWC Co-Chair
 - Area Operations Manager John Light
- Community Co-Chair
 - Selected by the board



CITIZENS FORUM INFORMATION

- All meetings are open to the public
- Regular communication with board via e-mail
- Meeting notices, notes/minutes, and presentations are available online at:
- http://www.ibwc.gov/Citizens_Forums/CF_SE_AZ.html

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA ISSUES

- Transboundary stormwater
- Boundary demarcation
- Sanitation – Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Transboundary sewage flows
- Water quality
- Groundwater studies
- Water and wastewater infrastructure
- Colorado River Joint Cooperative Actions

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION,
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO
UNITED STATES SECTION

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