



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
April 26, 2013

### **LAKE AMISTAD DROPS TO RECORD LOW**

On April 26, 2013 Lake Amistad, located on the Rio Grande at Del Rio, Texas-Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, dropped below the record low elevation of 1058.37 feet (322.59 meters) above mean sea level, set in August 1998. The present reservoir level is 1058.29 feet (322.567 meters) as of 3:00 p.m. CDT today and continues to decline.

Reservoir elevation is a function of both inflows and releases from Amistad Dam. When releases exceed inflow, the lake level drops. This month, both the United States and Mexico have released significant volumes of water from Amistad Reservoir. The water is being transferred downstream to Falcon Reservoir to meet irrigation and municipal water demand in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The releases are in response to water needs in both the United States and Mexico and do not impact Mexico's deficit in deliveries to the United States under the 1944 Water Treaty.

Releases from Amistad Dam are currently at the rate of nearly 9,000 cubic feet per second, including approximately 5,300 cubic feet per second for Mexico and 3,500 cubic feet per second for the United States. Releases are expected to be reduced by April 28.

The current low lake levels are in contrast to conditions less than three years ago when, in July 2010, the reservoir achieved its highest elevation in 36 years and the second highest elevation ever after high inflows from Hurricane Alex filled the reservoir.

Construction of Amistad Dam was completed in 1969. The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for dam operation and maintenance. During normal and low reservoir conditions, the rate of U.S. releases is determined by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Rio Grande Watermaster based on the need to deliver water to Texas users.

For more information:

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