

RIO GRANDE – CABALLO DAM TO AMERICAN DAM
NEW MEXICO AND TEXAS

Summary of Stakeholder Workshop #1

12 December 2006

The first stakeholder workshop for the Rio Grande Restoration Study from Caballo Dam to American Dam was held on Tuesday, 12 December 2006 at the office of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The workshop was arranged by World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Environmental Defense (ED), and the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) with invitations sent via letter (Attachment 1) to approximately 25 stakeholders. Approximately 20 stakeholders attended the workshop (Attachment 2), including representatives of the sponsoring organizations. Additionally, about 11 other persons representing the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) study team were in attendance. The meeting commenced at 9:00 A.M. and ended at approximately 5:00 P.M.

The meeting began with introductions of members of the sponsoring organizations (WWF, EBID, and ED), the study team members (USIBWC and USACE), and meeting facilitator. The meeting agenda (Attachment 3) was provided to all participants. Beth Bardwell, WWF representative, provided background leading up to the three planned stakeholder workshops. Her comments are summarized in Attachment 4). Ms. Bardwell described the meeting objectives and they were posted on a flip chart for the duration of the meeting. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- provide an update on the USIBWC Record of Decision for the Canalization Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS);
- allow stakeholders to share their priority issues and needs for river management; and
- inform stakeholders about new USACE studies.

Gary Esslinger, EBID representative, discussed the EBID's interest in collaborating with WWF and ED, including the following points:

- Recognition that adversarial approaches have proven very harmful to agricultural producers in many areas (e.g. Klamath, Middle Rio Grande).
- EBID has a history of productive collaboration with WWF on various water conservation projects within the District.
- The District has no endangered species now and would like to protect their water supply in the event that restoration activities result in reestablishment of endangered species.
- The current condition of the river channel and levees is unacceptable in terms of conveyance and flood control. Note FEMA decertification of levees and main channel islands with heavy permanent vegetation.
- Restoration and continuing lack of maintenance on the river means increasing river depletions that reduce EBID water. By having a mechanism for off-setting these losses, water allotments to active irrigators can be maintained.
- The proposed work will attempt to balance restoration with conveyance and flood control and provide marching orders for USIBWC to get back to work.
- The collaborative approach provides a mechanism for environmental interests to acquire water from willing lessors or sellers to offset their restoration impacts, thus improving the market for and value of agricultural water while protecting the interests of those that choose to stay in irrigated agriculture.

Following WWF and EBID presentations, all stakeholder were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and to explain their interest and concerns in management of the Rio Grande.

Daniel Borunda of the USIBWC made a presentation which summarized the Rio Grande Canalization Project EIS and described the current status of the Record of Decision. A copy of the presentation is included in Attachment 5. A question-and-answer session following Mr. Borunda's presentation allowed stakeholders and study team members time to discuss issues related to the EIS, many of which focused on flood control.

Charles Wilson of the USACE asked all stakeholders to take time during lunch develop a list their issues and concerns associated with management of the Rio Grande in relation to the EIS alternatives. Mr. Wilson asked that each issue be written on a separate index card (cards provided) and returned to him before the lunch break ended. A complete transcription of the index cards is contained in Attachment 6. Mr. Wilson first addressed the questions on the cards, opening the floor to responses and discussion from various stakeholder and study team members. The written questions led to the following discussion items:

- Protection reassurance to private landowners for restoration activities/ESA Safe Harbors Agreement
- Habitat restoration definition: a mosaic of habitats as seen 150 years ago (i.e. recreating the mosaic where possible)
- Which areas did the EIS identify as possible restoration sites?
- Scope of USIBWC EIS - should it be expanded? Should include:
 - ▶ alternatives to raising levees
 - ▶ non-structural flood control
 - ▶ eliminating mowing
 - ▶ possible restoration sites downstream from Mesilla Dam
 - ▶ maintenance of flood conveyance capacity
- Flood Control- alternatives to traditional management
 - ▶ Necessary part of EIS
 - ▶ What are other choices other than those in EIS?
 - ▶ Restoration may provide flood control benefits

Mr. Wilson also summarized comments and issues from the cards into the following categories:

- flood control;
- restoration/invasives;
- sediment transport/removal;
- river efficiency;
- management issues;
- sustaining agriculture; and
- recreation.

A discussion of the these topics included:

- Dredging/sediment balance
- Two EISs will possibly be prepared concurrently (USIBWC and USACE)
- Sustain local agriculture/ don't unintentionally harm adjacent agriculture doing the process of restoration
- Facilitate recreation by opening USIBWC gates, create trails
- River efficiency - what is acceptable level?
- Management tools should include all available (e.g. herbicides)
- Would include additional management tools trigger a supplemental EIS?
- EIS did not adequately respond to EBID comments

- What EIS is USIBWC currently operating under?
- H&H studies will need list of current/planned projects (within levee boundaries)

Further details on the comments, questions, and responses are included in Attachment 7. Following the group discussion, Mr. Wilson outlined additional studies which the USACE is undertaking via agreement with the USIBWC in response to issues raised about the EIS. His presentation is outlined in Attachment 8.

Dr. Phil King, consultant to the EBID, made a presentation about use and allocation of the Rio Grande. His presentation included a question-and-answer session. Slides from his presentation are included in Attachment 9.

The workshop concluded with closing comments by Ms. Bardwell and Mr. Wilson.

Attachment 1
Stakeholder Workshop Letter of Invitation

EBID



STAFF MEMBERS

GARY L. ESSLINGER, TREASURER/MANAGER
TED HORNER, MAINTENANCE CHIEF
RICARDO BEJARANO, WATERMASTER
HENRY MAGALLANEZ, DISTRICT ENGINEER
GAIL NORVELL, CONTROLLER
JAMES NARVAEZ, HYDROLOGY DIRECTOR

Elephant Butte Irrigation District

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November 6, 2006

Beth Bardwell
World Wildlife Fund
100 E. Hadley
Las cruces, NM 88001

RE: December 12th 2006, The First of Three Workshops on the Rio Grande Canalization Project

Dear Ms. Bardwell:

On behalf of Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and Environmental Defense (ED), we would like to invite you to participate in three technical workshops to discuss management objectives for the Rio Grande Canalization Project, a 105-mile river reach from Percha Dam, New Mexico to American Dam, Texas. The purpose of the technical workshops is two-fold.

First, EBID, WWF and ED want to inform you of the scope and results of new studies commissioned by the United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) on the Rio Grande's hydrology and hydraulics, flood protection, sediment transport, biology and opportunities for floodplain riparian habitat restoration. These studies will provide you with new and important information about how, where and why management objectives for irrigation deliveries, wildlife habitat, and flood control could be integrated and the potential benefits and tradeoffs from improved management for any one of these objectives.

Second, EBID, WWF and ED want to provide you with an opportunity to present your individual comments on the results of the studies and advice on technical decisions influencing future river management to staff of the USIBWC. Your input will be considered by USIBWC in the development of the Record of Decision for the Rio Grande Canalization Project Environmental Impact Statement. This is your opportunity to share your perspective, your concerns and your goals for future river management with a diverse group of people who share your interest in river management while increasing your technical understanding of river function and processes.

Beth Bardwell
November 6, 2006
Page 2 of 2

To adequately address concerns expressed by water rights holders about habitat restoration in the Canalization Project, EBID, WWF and ED are evaluating legal options for flexibility in dealing with the potential effects of the federal Endangered Species Act on restoration in this river reach and developing an institutional framework for management of and accounting for depletions associated with habitat restoration. These initiatives will also be the subject of discussion at the three workshops.

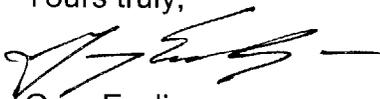
We have selected workshop participants based on their diverse interests and knowledge of a variety of river management issues. We are limiting the number of participants to twenty five to allow for dialogue and active participation. The ground rules for participation include a commitment to (1) devote the time necessary to attend all three workshops as well as review information in advance of workshops, (2) participate actively and constructively in the workshop discussions, and (3) exhibit a willingness to consider and respect the perspective of other stakeholders.

The three full-day workshops will be held over the course of the next year. The first workshop will be held on Tuesday, December 12th at EBID offices located at 530 South Melendres in Las Cruces. The meeting will be held from 9:00 to 5:00 and includes lunch. We anticipate that the second and third workshop will be held in May and August of 2007.

Please advise Janice Neaves of EBID at 526-6671 or at jneaves@ebid-nm.org of your decision whether to accept our invitation to attend the three workshops no later than Friday, November 17th. If you have any questions regarding the workshops, please feel free to contact Gary Esslinger of EBID (526-6671), Beth Bardwell of WWF (525-9532) or Daniel Borunda of USIBWC (915- 832-4767.)

Please note that while flood control will be a subject of discussion at these technical workshops, it will be discussed in the broader context of river management options and not the primary focus of the workshops. If you have specific issues with the recent flooding, we invite you to attend EBID's presentation at the upcoming IBWC Rio Grande Citizen's Forum on November 8th at the Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Yours truly,



Gary Esslinger
Treasurer-Manager

GLE:BB/jln

Attachment 2
Workshop Sign-In Sheets

**RIO GRANDE – CABALLO DAM TO AMERICAN DAM
NEW MEXICO AND TEXAS**

**STAKEHOLDER MEETING 1
SIGN-IN SHEET**

Name	Organization	Phone Number	E-mail
CHARLES WILSON	USACE	505-342-3341	CHARLES.W.WILSON@USACE.ARMY.MIL
Steve Cary	State Parks	505 416-3386	steve.cary@state.nm.us
STEVE BOBERG	USACE	505 342-3336	STEVE.A.BoBERG@USACE.ARMY.MIL
Bob Mussetter	MEI/USACE	970-224-4612	bobm@mussei.com
Beth Bardwell	WWF	505-525-9532	bethbardwell@zianet.com
Susan Bittick	USACE	505-342-3397	susan.m.bittick@usace.army.mil
WILLIAM DEROGON	USACE	505-342-3358	william.v.derogon@usace.army.mil
PHIL KING	NMSU/EBIA	646-5377	jpking@nmsu.edu
Donie Borunda	USIBWC	915 832-4767	donieborunda@ibwc.state.gov
MIKE LANDIS	USBR	915 534-6307	mlandis@uc.usbr.gov
ROBERT FAUBION	EBIA	505 649 5598	
Rong Kuo	USIBWC	915 832-4767	RongKuo@ibwc.state.gov
Gene Adkins	NRCS	505 894-6354	eugene.adkins@nms.usda.gov
Gill M. Sorg	MV Audubons	505 541 0577	sorg@zianet.com
DAN DARBYSHIRE		505-882-2797	dane@darbyshire.co
Leticia Segovia	DAC Flood Comm.	525-5554	leticias@lanacounty.gov
Jim O'Brien	Rivian Engineering	928 339-1935	jim@flo-20.com
Karen Chapman	EN. Defense	956-982-0220	kchapman@ed.org

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NEW MEXICO AND TEXAS

STAKEHOLDER MEETING 1
SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	Organization	Phone Number	E-mail
- Julie Mattland	NMDA	646-2642	j.mattland@nmda.nmsu.edu
- Greg Bloom	Sen. Bingaman	523-4775	greg_bloom@bingaman.senate.gov
- Steve Smullen	USTBWC	915 832 4749	stevessmullen@ibwc.state.gov
- Ramon Alvarez	EBID	874-3170	Lazy - A@msn.com
- Karl Wood	NMSU	646-4337	Kwood@wrii.nmsu.edu
- Gary Esslinger	EBID	639-4377	gesslinger@ebid-nm.org
- S.D. Schemnitz	Southwest Consolidated Sportsman	526-5056	s.schemni@nmsu.edu
- Christopher Ann	NMED	647-7926	chris.ann@sbk.nm.us
- Brian Hanson	US Fish & Wildlife Serv.	761-4708	brian_hanson@fw.gov
- Erik Webb	Domenici	346-6726	erk.webb@domenici.sen.nm.us
- EZEK FUCHS	NMOSE	524-6161	efuchs@state.nm.us
- James Slopak	EBID		
- Kevin Brisby	SWRC	522-5552	swee@zianet.com

Attachment 3
Workshop Agenda

RIO GRANDE – CABALLO DAM TO AMERICAN DAM
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STAKEHOLDER MEETING 1
AGENDA

DATE: December 12, 2006

LOCATION: 530 South Melendres, Las Cruces, New Mexico (EBID offices)

START TIME: 9:00 A.M.

9:00 – 9:30 WWF and EBID Introductions

9:30 – 11:30 Stakeholder and Study Team Introductions

11:30 – 11:45 Break

11:45 – 12:15 USIBWC EIS Overview

12:15 – 1:15 Lunch, including participant write-up of their priority issues and needs related to river management

1:15 – 3:15 Discussion of ways in which multiple goals could be addressed (e.g. irrigation deliveries, flood control, sediment transport and wildlife habitat restoration)

3:15 – 3:30 Break

3:30 – 4:15 Corps of Engineers Study Overview, including discussion of future stakeholder meetings

4:15 – 5:00 Overview of other work underway on the Rio Grande

5:00 – 5:15 Closing Comments

5:15 – 5:30 Closing Stakeholder Remarks/Comments

Attachment 4
World Wildlife Fund Presentation

Beth Bardwell, Program Officer WWF-Chihuahuan Desert Program

- ▶ Field office in Las Cruces
- ▶ Program goals is to conserve water resources to better meet the needs of wildlife and people in the Chihuahuan Desert

Thank you on behalf of WWF for coming to today's workshop; I know that it is a very busy time of year for some of you what with the harvest and Christmas

This workshop is the first of three technical workshops on a 105 mile reach of the river that the USIBWC refers to as the canalization project. It runs from Percha Dam to American Dam.

I want to use my introductory comments to answer two questions that are foremost in peoples minds and those are:

- ▶ What is the objective of these technical workshops
- ▶ What is your role
- ▶ The answer to these questions lies in the past 8 years; do a quick recap of those eight years and I am going to break them into three periods: Canalization Past, Present and Future

Canalization Past

In 1999, the USIBWC issues a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement on proposed changes in operations and management

Fast forward us to August 2004, after a great deal of technical analyses and public input, but always one perspective at a time or unilateral input from various interests, USIBWC prepares to issue its Record of Decision (what is that--official decision by the agency on which operation and management practices they will implement)

A lot of people, like you, cared a great deal about which preferred alternative was chosen because they have a direct impact on issues of concern like flooding, conveyance efficiencies, and river ecosystem health

And, a significant number of stakeholders are unhappy with the preferred alternative—there is talk of inadequate analyses and consideration of impacts-- there is talk of litigation

What was unique about the situation is that stakeholders from traditionally opposing sides were both unhappy with the preferred alternative

Universal dislike of the preferred alternative but for very different reasons:

Conservation groups are unhappy because in their opinions the proposed habitat enhancements are nominal;

The Irrigation District and producers are unhappy because, in part, IBWC will undertake habitat improvements without adequate analysis of the impacts, including Endangered Species Act, and where the water for habitat improvements is coming from

Sum up this 8 year period—the stakeholders have reached an impasse with IBWC; in IBWC's attempt to satisfy all stakeholders, no interest groups achieved their goals

Canalization Present

The opposing sides started talking to one another about working together to delay the ROD until

modifications to the preferred alternative can be agreed upon by the stakeholders

We asked the congressional delegation and the Governor to support the delay and urge IBWC to delay issuing the ROD—and letters are sent, phone calls are made, meetings are held and IBWC decides to delay the ROD

At the same time we are helping each other stop the ROD, we start talking what ifs—

- ▶ What if ED lawyers could work with EBID lawyers to figure out a way under the ESA to provides some assurances to EBID of river management and operations even if habitat restoration attracted the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher or Yellow Billed Cuckoo
- ▶ What if there were benefits to EBID and upstream reservoir storage to creating habitat to endangered species downstream
- ▶ What if we had better studies that could help us tease out exactly where the river is most suitable for restoration and what the water budget would be to enhance those sites
- ▶ What if we had better studies that really helped us identify what the tradeoffs are to existing users in terms of flood control and conveyance efficiencies if we were to enhance habitat in a handful of locations throughout the river—like a string of pearls
- ▶ What if any depletions for habitat enhancements were purchased from willing sellers at market value
- ▶ What if EBID could develop an administrative infrastructure to oversee transfers of water for environmental purposes like they do for municipal uses under state law the Special Water Users Association
- ▶ Then maybe we would be closer to finding a shared solution to operation and management in the Canalization project

So we went looking for funding to undertake these studies and administrative and legal analyses

- ▶ First we looked at Corp funding under Sec. 729 of the Water Resource Development Act
- ▶ With Senator Bingaman's help, the USIBWC agreed to fund the Corp and EBID to undertake the studies and legal analyses
- ▶ With Senator Domenici's help, BuRec also is funding EBID to undertake this work

Lessons learned from the last 7-8 years is that

- ▶ When we worked together acknowledging each others needs and interests, we have been able to accomplish a great deal
 - Delayed the ROD
 - \$3/4 million dollars in funding

- ▶ we all realize that we need to release the ROD, and move forward with a more balanced approach—
 - balancing flood control, conveyance efficiencies and habitat enhancement for operation and management of the Canalization project

Canalization Future

Objectives of these workshops and your role:

- ▶ To invite a larger number of stakeholders to the table to strike the right balance and to help shape that shared solution, although there is no requirement that this body reach consensus
- ▶ To give you an opportunity to talk with scientists, agency staff and other stakeholders about your individual perspective, your concerns and goals for future river management
- ▶ At today's workshop to share with you the scope of the new studies and at future workshops provide you an opportunity to review the results of those studies as they are completed over the next year and a half

Ground rules

- ▶ Devote the time necessary to attend all three workshops and review information in advance of those workshops
- ▶ Participate actively and constructively in the workshop
- ▶ Willingness to consider and respect the viewpoint of other stakeholders

Thank you again for coming today and I look forward to working with you in these workshops.

Attachment 5
USIBWC Presentation

Rio Grande Canalization Project Brief

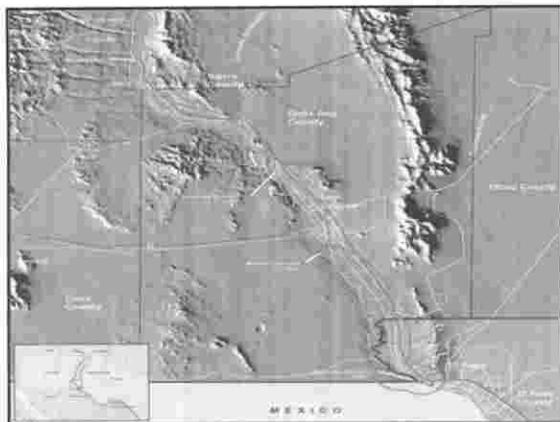
Daniel Borunda
United States Section,
International Boundary and Water Commission



12-11-2009

Rio Grande Canalization Project Environmental Impact Statement

- ⌚ Timeline of EIS
- ⌚ EIS Alternatives
- ⌚ Current Status of EIS process
- ⌚ Next steps



History of Rio Grande Canalization Project EIS

- ⌚ 1977 Environmental Assessment for annual O&M activities
- ⌚ 1991 USACE CWA regulatory requirements
- ⌚ 1994 channel maintenance 404 Permit issued with stipulations (wetland and riffle zone creation, tree planting etc)
- ⌚ 1998 USIBWC receives notice of NEPA and ESA violations
- ⌚ 1999 USIBWC starts River Management Alternatives EIS process

History of EIS cont'd

- ⌚ 1999 –2001 Public scoping and consultation period
- ⌚ 2001 EIS Alternatives Formulation Report issued
- ⌚ 2003 Reformulation of River Management Alternatives Report issued
- ⌚ December 2003 Draft EIS released for public comment
- ⌚ July 2004 Final EIS issued
- ⌚ August 2004 Record of Decision was expected
- ⌚ Governor Richardson, Senators Bingamon and Domenici, and stakeholders request delay in signing the ROD

Rio Grande Canalization Project EIS Alternatives

- ⌚ Evaluated Long-term River Management Alternatives:
 - No Action
 - Flood Control Improvement
 - Integrated Land Management
 - Targeted River Restoration
- ⌚ Goal to accomplish flood control, water delivery, and operation and maintenance activities in a manner that would enhance or restore the riparian ecosystem

Management Category	No Action Alternative	Final Alternative (Proposed)	PREPARED ALTERNATIVE (USIBWC Bank Management)	Targeted Final Alternative
Levee System Management	Levee Maintenance and Repair	No Change	No Change	No Change
Towbank Management	MAINTENANCE (1,000 ac)	MAINTENANCE (1,000 ac)	MAINTENANCE (1,000 ac)	MAINTENANCE (1,000 ac)
	Channel Bank Stabilization (1,000 ac)	No Change	Channel Bank Stabilization (1,000 ac)	Channel Bank Stabilization (1,000 ac)
	MAINTENANCE (1,000 ac)	No Change	MAINTENANCE (1,000 ac)	MAINTENANCE (1,000 ac)
Channel and Riparian Habitat Management	Channel Bank Stabilization (1,000 ac)	No Change	No Change	No Change
Sediment Management	Channel Bank Stabilization (1,000 ac)	No Change	No Change	No Change
	Channel Bank Stabilization (1,000 ac)	No Change	No Change	No Change
	Channel Bank Stabilization (1,000 ac)	No Change	No Change	No Change

USIBWC Preferred Alternative

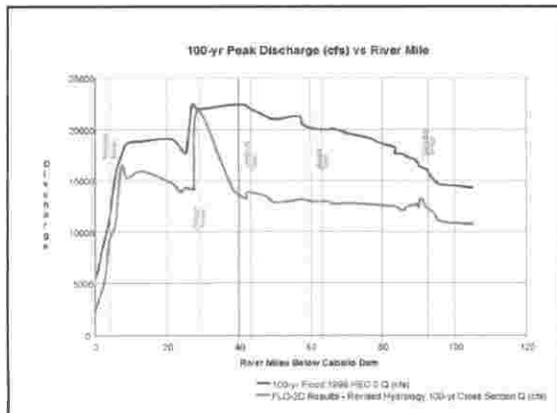
- Current O&M activities for flood protection and water delivery
- Current channel maintenance
- Flood control improvements
- Modify grazing lease program to improve erosion control
- Partial changes in floodplain maintenance
 - Environmental measures within USIBWC ROW
 - Develop riparian corridor for bank stabilization
 - Streambank reconfiguration for over bank flows

Status

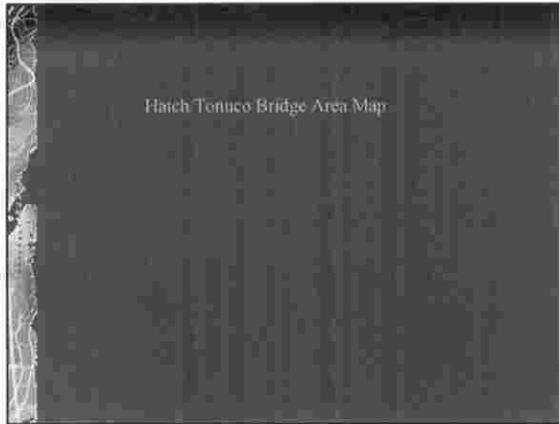
- April 2005 – Proposal from EBID/WWF (water rights framework and ESA safeguards)
- August 2005 – USACE completes FLO-2D model from Caballo to American Dam
- Fall 2005 – EBID/WWF Section 729 WRDA proposal to USACE (re-evaluate Hydrology & Hydraulics, flood protection, sediment transport, habitat restoration)

Status

- 1996 USACE HEC-2 model used by USIBWC as guideline for Flood Elevations
 - Raise ~ 60.1 miles of levees 2 ft. average
 - ~2.8 mile floodwall in Canutillo
- At present USIBWC adopted FLO-2D model as the guideline
 - Raise ~ 51 miles of levees
 - Majority in the lower reach of project



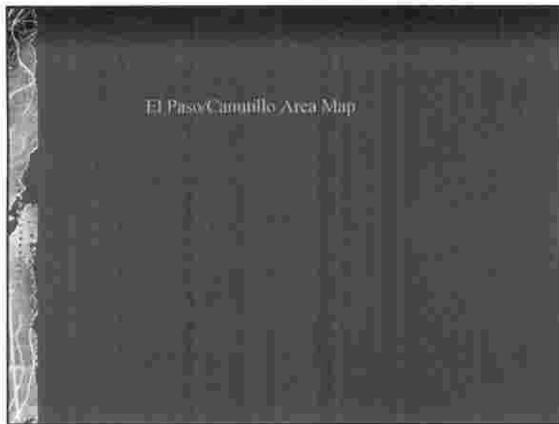
Location	Distance miles	1996 Qp (cfs)	FLO-2D Qp (cfs)
Caballo Dam release	0	5,000	2,550
Trujillo Canyon	2.69	9,100	2,400
Mentoya Arroyo	4.02	11,300	9,100
Green Canyon	5.62	11,700	10,400
Tierra Blanca Arroyo	8.82	15,600	10,400
Sibley Arroyo	7.33	17,600	14,000
Herrada Arroyo	8.66	18,700	14,000
Arroyo Curiso	13.01	18,900	15,000
Pisacostas Arroyo	20.68	19,100	14,000
Algodonera Arroyo	25.42	17,800	14,500
Rincon Arroyo	28.88	22,400	22,400
Road Arroyo	31.88	22,500	20,000
Broad Canyon	37.92	22,400	14,000
Faulkner Canyon	42.46	22,200	13,000
Leaning Dam	43.39	22,200	13,800
Shafter Bridge	54.13	20,900	13,800
Dona Ana Dam	55.44	21,000	13,500
Picacho Dam	56.76	21,300	13,400
Mexilla Dam	63.07	20,000	13,400
Vinton, Texas	89.68	16,500	12,100
Niveyo, Texas	91.33	16,300	12,100
Canutillo, Texas	92.71	15,900	12,000
Borderland, Texas	94.76	15,000	11,100
Courthouse Bridge	101.77	14,400	11,000
American Dam	105.44	14,000	11,000



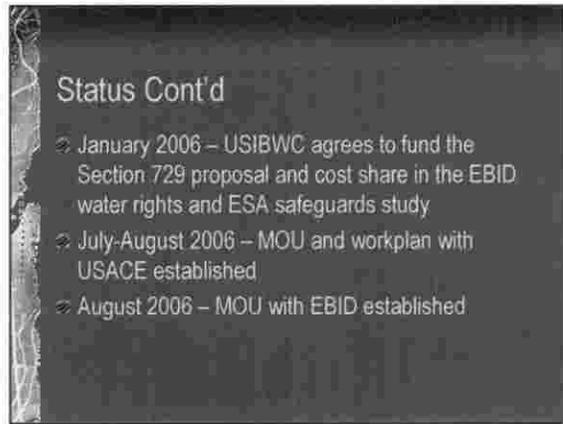
Hatch-Tonuco Bridge Area Map



Mesilla/Las Cruces Area Map

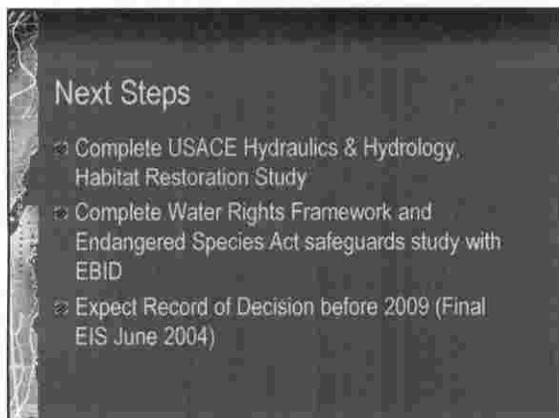


El Paso/Camutillo Area Map



Status Cont'd

- ❖ January 2006 – USIBWC agrees to fund the Section 729 proposal and cost share in the EBID water rights and ESA safeguards study
- ❖ July-August 2006 – MOU and workplan with USACE established
- ❖ August 2006 – MOU with EBID established



Next Steps

- ❖ Complete USACE Hydraulics & Hydrology, Habitat Restoration Study
- ❖ Complete Water Rights Framework and Endangered Species Act safeguards study with EBID
- ❖ Expect Record of Decision before 2009 (Final EIS June 2004)



Questions?

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Attachment 6
Issues, Comments and Questions From Index Cards

**RIO GRANDE – CABALLO DAM TO AMERICAN DAM
NEW MEXICO AND TEXAS**

**STAKEHOLDER MEETING 1
STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

Flood Control

- Investigate means of flood control other than increasing the height of levees that will provide flood protection and also provide wildlife and fish habitat (i.e., expand width of floodplains, reduce peak runoff by improving upper watershed).
- Any chance for IBWC to develop, coordinate MOU's to improve vegetative conditions, small side dams, etc. adjacent to major arroyos emptying into the Rio Grande?
- Reduce risk from flooding to protect individual and community health and well-being along the Rio Grande and its tributaries.
- Need holistic approach: watershed condition, reduce demand (keep people out of harm's way), alternatives to structures (flood easements, wetlands, etc.). What is the potential? Who will assess?
- Would like to see a risk-based approach to flood control. Cost-benefit of raising levees.
- Possibility for widening pilot channel to increase capacity without raising levees.
- Flood control to protect lives and properties along the river has a higher priority in the river management. Issues: What level of protection is adequate? FEMA criteria? 100-year event? Needs: USIBWC needs to raise levee to meet the criteria for the entire canalization project.
- Can we meet flood control needs by strengthening levees and not relying on bank stabilization?
- Issue: FEMA is currently revising the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to show a new special flood hazard area with no levees at all. Once the levees are rebuilt, new floodplain maps would need to be produced ASAP or there will be residents required to purchase flood insurance unnecessarily
- There are floodplains available for use as flood control areas – like those in Seldon Canyon.

Restoration/Invasives

- Restore and enhance wetland and riparian areas where the opportunity exists within the confines of flood protection, water rights, treaties, etc.
- Manage non-native phreatophytes within Rio Grande Valley and restore native vegetation or desirable vegetation in those areas.
- Need to restore ecological functioning so that river itself creates and maintains aquatic and riparian habitats, which means managing flows for restoration (peak flows and winter releases).
- Is it possible/plausible/desirable to consider occasional overbank events as a means to support river/habitat restoration?
- Need to promote river meandering between levees (more natural river rather than a canal).
- When we identify potential habitat enhancements we should look at providing sites or 'string of pearls' concept throughout 105-mile reach so we begin to meet need for linear wildlife corridor along river.
- Can we use flooding and bank erosion as opportunities to diversify habitat in channel and in the floodplain?
- Can adjustments be made in water release pattern to create more habitat diversity in floodplain?
- Discuss Seldon Canyon Reach for potential restoration projects.

Sediment Transport/Removal

- What are the long term consequences of no significant sediment removal from the river channel on the flooding capacity of the channel, say 10, 20, 30 years out?

River Efficiency

- Water Deliveries – How much efficiency is enough? Or, what level of inefficiency is acceptable?
- River efficiency will help to deliver water to growers and help relieve flooding pressure.
- We need to look at working with present flow channels to provide wildlife habitat and not affect river efficiency.
- Sediment load created by normal river operations as well as flood events hamper the efficient flow of water. This needs to be addressed in order to keep river bottom clean. Utilize wasteways and drain returns as potential restoration sites first and then from their success or failure look to future river sites.

- Increased vegetation within IBWC's ROW increases water use. How does this increased use affect water quality in terms of salinity, etc.?

Management Issues

- Need for EBID to practice more wildlife friendly activities (e.g., return flow ditch maintenance – 1 side only, don't burn or clear vegetation during nesting season, etc.).
- Current floodplain management, mowing, is really detrimental to creating productive and needed riparian habitat – can we examine reasons/justification for mowing and identify alternatives to accomplish these goals or examine whether they are needed to accomplish stated goals?
- Would it be feasible to release more water from Caballo Dam during the winter (in-stream flow) to meet Mexico's treaty demands? Any possibilities for IBWC to practice more wildlife friendly activities (e.g., less mowing, domestic livestock grazing, plant cottonwoods in groups, leave a larger buffer strip of undisturbed vegetation along river banks, etc.)?

Sustaining Agriculture

- Protect farmland/ag-land from conversion to non-agricultural uses by enhancing and sustaining the viability of agriculture operations through economic and natural resource improvement.

Recreation

- EBID needs to open locked gates along drains to facilitate recreational activities by public (hiking, horseback riding, bird watching, etc.).

Recommendations

- It is essential that the river restoration, water delivery compact obligations, and newly evolving county flood control plans be fully integrated.
- Balance flood control and water deliveries with habitat restoration (back water areas for fish habitat and 'islands' of wildlife habitat).
- Finish NEPA process so that river restoration, levee rehabilitation and other collaborative projects can occur. The process has been going on since 1999, and the USIBWC has not been able to take action on anything regarding river management.
- Identify existing initiatives (such as proposed SWEC wetlands) and incorporate into this H&H study.

Questions

- Regarding endangered species, are there any existing models in the US of areas that have been grandfathered from the regulations relating to habitat restoration
- Define habitat restoration?
- What areas in the river channel are being targeted for habitat restoration?
- What are the costs of this habitat restoration, per area, and who will be paying for it (and maintaining it)?
- Are all stakeholders 'on-board' with staying within the scope of the original EIS? Anyone not OK?
- Under what EIS is the IBWC operating and what management practice under that EIS?

Attachment 7
Detailed Notes from Workshop Discussions

IBWC Caballo to American Dam
Workshop 1
Las Cruces, NM
12 DEC 06

Discussions after lunch, prior to card question/answer period

- There was discussion regarding the Safe Harbor Agreement. Are there models? Grandfather clauses? Enhancement will primarily be in IBWC lands.
- This project will be through Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, agreement between two federal agencies... Only FWS can allow some take of the species if it benefits that species in the long term.
- Recreate the natural river mosaic where we can
- Possible to do with concert with all interest groups. It has been done in the Lower Rio Grande; irrigation, public lands, 17 species of concern.

Discussion resulting from questions submitted on cards

Q. What areas are being targeted?

A. The EIS looked at about 16, we looked at some of these last year. We will look at those and additional areas. We will need to look into the hydraulics. Can we get water there? At the second workshop we will look at our baseline study. This group of stakeholders will be considering which sites are of interest to them.

Q. Cost and maintaining it?
How much is in the Federal Bank for these activities?

A. The sites we are looking at are on IBWC land and public rights of way. Perhaps we can develop conceptual plans for (other) sites. \$50 million..... IBWC/levee improvement, then a ROD. Look to the congressionals and then go to DC. More effective if all stakeholders are in concert. Need to advocate at the Federal level. Line item for IBWC. Rio Grande Management Plan-3 states and basin. WRDA is dead, but baseline in January....
State and Federal grants...

Q. Are all stakeholders on board with keeping within the EIS?

A. Many doesn't see it that way. Need to be more creative. . Devil is in the details.
Looking for opportunity for progress. Think the EIS missed opportunities. IBWC has kept open the process. Restoration sites south of Mesilla were not addressed in the EIS. Elimination of mowing not addressed in the EIS.

Don't think we should scrap the data collected in 1999. Effort, money-waste of tax-payers money.
At some time we need to be aware that if we change the alternatives and develop new alternatives

it would kick us into a supplemental EIS (Draft supplemental, public inputs, supplemental timeline, add another 2 years

What would constitute a new alternative?-outside scope? Application-what was the intent? Apply to a site or programmatic to the reach? If Jimmy is to evaluate alternatives, need to know the sites

No-mowing: If you have the management alternatives no vs mowing, repackage the alternative to include what's there, and be within the non-supplemental. Implement restoration.
Are mowing analysis done? EIS looked at modifying mowing practices.

Alternative not developed with Hatch vegetable growers issues in mind. No mow sites contribute to growth of tumbleweeds; economic loss to keep weed seed out of fields. No consultation with growers. Needs to be addressed.

IBWC/herbicides/ not looked at by IBWC. Need selective herbicides on non-natives. There is allot of Russian knapweed below Percha Dam. Herbicides are a restoration tool. However, it might drive us to a supplemental.

Long history with Environmental Defense (ED) has worked with landowners. Water Rights in Texas are different than NM. ED does not want undue burdens. They look for ways to be flexible.

Wouldn't suggest stop-mowing completely. But look into areas and see what happens. Beauford Harris' property: not in use for a long time. There is alkali sacaton and native grasses on his land. Why is salt cedar in mowed areas coming back?

Salt Cedar Management Program.....

Fair amount of flexibility in the array of EIS alternatives which won't require a supplemental

Talk to CEQ. Objective language to check supplemental vs. non supplemental.

EIS wasn't responsive to EBID comments. Wants to stay within the flexibility of the EIS. Wants to do it right.

Q. Under what EIS management plan is IBWC working?

A. By default, No Action. Right now, management by the 1977 EA. Danny asked IBWC's lawyer. Can't do anything beyond the 1977 EA.

Canutillo Flood wall.....

Q Will USACE identify existing wetlands and incorporate into the H&H (hydrology and hydraulics) study?

A. USACE intent was to look at levee to levee. Wouldn't have looked outside those parameters prior to this workshop input. They will be looking at the tributaries where the floodplain extends.

Existing projects could/should be provided to them, what existing levee enhancements are being done

3 developments near levees...

Dealing within the floodplain and hydrology/sediment delivery from the arroyos. Needs a list of projects to look at which are considered within this project.

Q. What are the long term consequences of no significant sediment removal from the river channel on the flooding capacity of the channel, say 10, 20, 30 years out?

A. Dredging is a part of maintenance, the "No Action" plan. Permit to dredge in the high priority areas

Are the areas in EBID slides? Danny needs to look at his list. Have done some dredging in the Mesilla Dam area (?). Stabilizing banks...recent flooding.

Drainage profile... Late 80s dredging in the river was a detriment to EBID's structures. Almost washed their siphons out. IBWC corrected these problems in the Hatch & Rincon

USACE scope/sediment analysis. Develop baseline. Stakeholders need to provide survey data/siphon info/places you know there's a problem/where there's deposition.

local effects in response to local flooding

-that effects river surface

-100 yr flooding is not effectiv

-long term effect is that there is a dearth of sediment greatest effect on river morphology.

River conveyances, habitat closely tied to historic change of sediment yield. Short term vs. long term effects.

Other Corps programs in Dona Ana County. Don't know if they will be authorized and appropriated. Corps would do feasibility study and go through NEPA and flood control processes. We may have two NEPA processes that will overlap. His concern is that the present EIS does not address all. He doesn't know how to address this...two horses out of gate. The second EIS to come along may need to accommodate the prior EIS. Anyone else see the same projection?

IBWC vs. cost-share Corps Feasibility...

IBWC's concern is the mainstem. Could Corps design impede?...unlikely. Looking at the hydrograph, designing for normal flow events.

County has no issues regarding this particular aspect-restoration. Task force is to throw in all possibilities. Taxes...or through Corps projects.... Hatch through Santa Teresa.

Q. Protect farmland/ag-land from conversion to non-agricultural uses by enhancing and sustaining the viability of agriculture operations through economic and natural resource improvement.

- A. Tumbleweed issue... Agriculture before the dam...oxbows removed where they were farming (grandfather's time). It's different than what the river used to do. The construction debt that EBID took on allowed farmers to develop their land. Look beyond flood plain/levees. Now birds in orchards, deer in chili fields in Hatch.

NRCA National Strategic Plan. Allot of options. Economic lifestyle vs. urbanization of viable farmland....

One tool is flood easements and conservation easements. Limit urbanization. Easements-relief from flood control structures. Land use, land development/future use.

- Q. EBID needs to open locked gates along drains to facilitate recreational activities by public (hiking, horseback riding, bird watching, etc.).

- A. Constitutes permits, opening harvest gates. 20,000 acres of pecans are harvested; there would be problems with harvesting by public. Gates could be opened after harvest...this is not public property.

Risk tort claims...protection issues-must buy insurance. New Mexico State parks working with legislators to allow two government entities to be covered under same coverage. EBID has been added to their coverage on a project where both properties are involved. Working with the Attorney General's office to get changes- currently cannot indentify another agency. Hopefully get an Opinion change

Issues include safety, etc. On the other hand, this reach has a string of pearls which are a part of local communities' history/culture. Perhaps make the recreation manageable by allowing limited access for the public.

Currently, security risk/Homeland Security is an issue.... Example, Mesilla Dam; road over dam allows access to the desert for recreational use. However, dam could be at risk of a terrorist act. Costly option would be to put in a new bridge.

- Q. Several questions on river efficiency

- A. Definition: Water budget, maintaining/improving flood capacity. Don't want the recreational use to decrease flood capacity and conveyance.

Example discussed was San Acacia to San Marcel. Themes include fire breaks.

- Q. Flood control questions

- A. Spring flows (2-4 cfs) are not flood flows (11 to 19 cfs) (during monsoon season July-September).

Problem is looking at hydrograph flows vs. weather patterns. Looking at flood flows J to keep for next irrigation season. 200,000 acre feet in one month in Elephant Butte! Looking at other alternatives such as storing water in arroyos. Looking historic record.

Scope is looking at hydraulics more than hydrology.

Middle Rio Grande, changes in water operations. Considering the water year, consideration of climate change scenarios, if there is scientific evaluation is current thread... (wet year, dry year, etc.)

Attachment 8
USACE Presentation

**RIO GRANDE – CABALLO DAM TO AMERICAN DAM
NEW MEXICO AND TEXAS**

**STAKEHOLDER MEETING 1
USACE PRESENTATION**

Purpose of Study: Provide information to USIBWC to support management of the Rio Grande Canalization Project with respect to developing alternatives that provide ecosystem restoration benefits.

Study Components:

- Hydrology, hydraulics, sediment transport, geomorphic impacts and trends
- Environmental analysis
- Plan Formulation
- Stakeholder meetings and input

Hydrology and Hydraulics:

Task 1 - Data Collection, Research, and Qualitative Analysis

- Meet with Stakeholders and research existing studies & models
- Conduct Data Compilation of the Rio Grande Geomorphology
- Conduct site visit and meet with EBID, USIBWC and WWF
- Review available GIS data bases and mapping for study use
- Obtain from the Corps and USIBWC river profile, cross section, flow, sediment data, and aerial photographs to update this reach of the Rio Grande as a basis for more detailed hydraulic analyses.

Task 2 - Initial Modeling and Assessment of Baseline Conditions

- Evaluate the hydraulic, sediment transport, and geomorphic impacts and trends to define baseline conditions for the project reach. The following efforts will be included in this evaluation:
 - ▶ Identification of sub reaches based on geomorphology, hydraulic and biologic considerations (referencing Hope for a Living River).
 - ▶ Conduct Data Compilation of the Rio Grande Geomorphology affecting this reach. Develop existing conditions description including aggradation/degradation trends.
- Update the 2-dimensional hydraulic model using the existing URGWOM FLO-2D model for the Rio Grande from the Caballo to American Dam.
- Model existing conditions flows to establish baseline conditions. Assess potential existing areas of overbank flow and sediment effects. From this analysis select the following target flows to be included in the modeling effort:
 - ▶ Average annual spring hydrograph (+/- 2350 cfs upper reach, 1400 cfs lower reach)

- ▶ Average annual irrigation flows (2,500 cfs)
 - ▶ Bankfull discharge (2,500 to 3000 cfs)
 - ▶ 10 year storm event
 - ▶ 100 year storm event
- Existing Conditions Baseline Report – to be presented at Stakeholder Workshop #2.

Task 3 - Initial Screening of Restoration Potential with FLO-2D and Sediment Analysis

- Coordinate development of river restoration alternatives with the EBID, USIBWC, ED, and WWF. Incorporate alternatives for channel protection in the reach and at any USIBWC river maintenance sites identified.
- Model target restoration flows between 1500 to 5000 cfs, in 500 cfs increments, to assess potential existing areas of overbank flow and sediment effects. Determine a target restoration flow hydrograph defining both the peak and duration which will provide the greatest benefit for each reach being evaluated and relate that target flow to expected hydrographs occurring within each project reach being assessed such as:
 - ▶ Average annual spring hydrograph (+/- 2350 cfs upper reach, 1400 cfs lower reach)
 - ▶ Average annual irrigation hydrograph (2,500 cfs)
 - ▶ Bankfull discharge hydrograph (2,500 cfs to 3,000 cfs)
- Map areas of inundation based on target restoration flows.
- Conduct analysis of restoration potential by sub-reach.
- Identify potential areas and techniques for restoration.
- Sediment inflows and sediment transport and deposition shall be evaluated through the main stem Rio Grande for the flow conditions previously investigated.
- Present results of sediment analysis and restoration potential by sub-reach for Stakeholder Workshop #2.

Task 4 - 2-Dimensional Modeling and Final Alternative Analysis

- Select target restoration flow(s)
- Evaluate the benefits and hydraulic impacts of preferred alternative techniques.
- The sites to be evaluated will include any restoration sites identified in the Canalization EIS inundated under the restoration flow(s) and any additional sites where inundation is occurring or could easily be made to occur.
- Analyze selected restoration locations and techniques. Provide hydraulic data to support evaluation of various restoration alternatives
- Prioritize restoration areas and techniques.
- Evaluate cumulative impacts from target restoration flow(s) and floodplain inundation in terms of water budget.
- Evaluate flood flow impacts on restoration sites identified.
- Final Alternative Analysis Report to include conclusions and recommendations - to be presented at Stakeholder Workshop #3.

Environmental Analysis:

- Evaluate Restoration Potential Throughout Study Reach

At potential mitigation sites identified in the EIS and at additional sites identified by hydraulic modeling . . .

Determine existing vegetation and hydrologic regime
Outline potential habitat type and restoration techniques
Preliminary evaluation of ecological benefits and hydraulic impacts

- Develop criteria to prioritize locations and techniques for restoration application (study team and shareholder input)
- Select restoration areas and techniques
- Prepare Cost-effective Restoration Plans for Selected Sites

Restoration features, cost estimates, benefits, and impacts (including ecological, hydraulic, ownership, and logistic consideration)

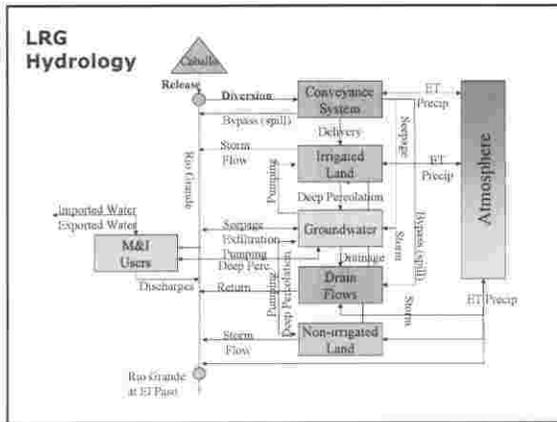
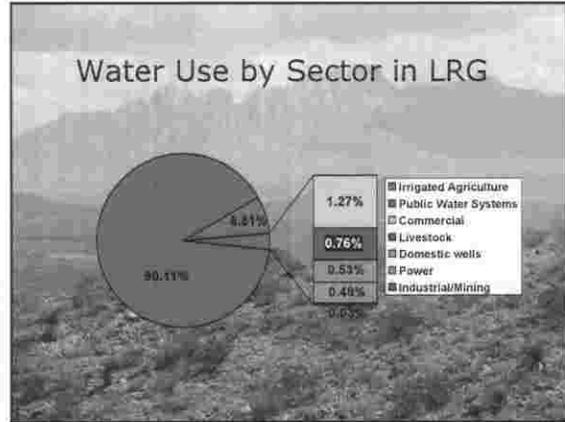
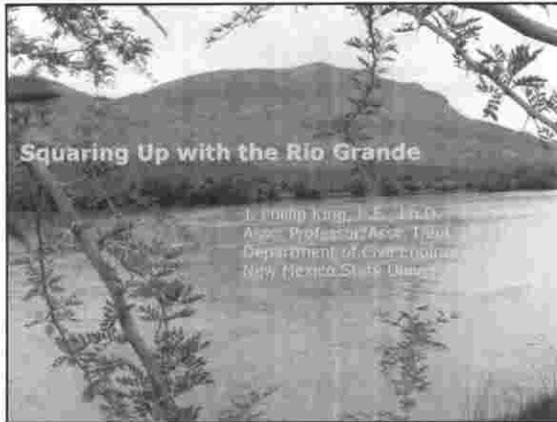
Plan Formulation

- Develop recon-level alternatives using input from stakeholders
- Not limited to locations analyzed in current EIS

Stakeholder Meetings

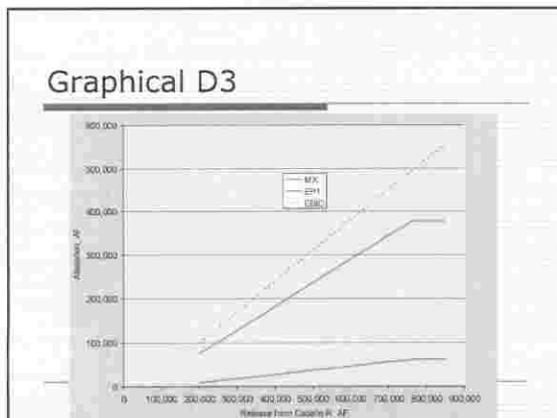
- Meeting 1 – Determine stakeholder concerns (Dec 2006)
- Meeting 2 – Update on baseline conditions, determine potential sites and methods (May 2007)
- Meeting 3 – Present findings/alternatives (Aug 2007)

Attachment 9
Phil King Presentation



D3 Allocation

- $MX = 0.09375 \cdot R - 11,610$, maximum 60,000 acre-feet
- $EP1 = 0.53775 \cdot R - 33,872$, maximum 376,885 acre-feet
- $EB = R \cdot R_D - MX - EP1$
- $R_D = \text{Total Diversion/Release}$



Allotment Process

- Diversion Allocation set by BOR a la D3
- Adaptive strategy by EBID
 - Allotment = $e_c \cdot \text{Allocation} / 90,640$
 - $e_c = \text{Delivery/Diversion} \approx 50\%$ in drought, 65% in full supply
 - Moving target
- Groundwater - ???

SWUAs

- Allow entity to use surface water for M&I and other uses within District boundaries
 - Ownership of Project Water rights
 - Lease of Project Water rights
 - Transfer of Project Water

Foundations for Special Water Users Associations

- Developed by EBID, City of Las Cruces, and the State Engineer
- EBID Policy 2003-GA8, approved November 19, 2003
- 73-10-48 NMSA

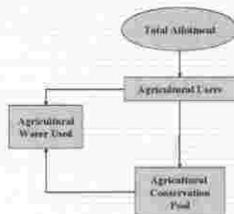
SWUA Details

- Assessed as EBID constituents
- Share pro rata in shortages
- Surface water rights maintain EBID's 1906 priority date
- SWUA must lease all of the water from a parcel; land must be followed
- Special Combined Unit: Small tracts (<2 acres) can be consolidated and treated as farm tract for ordering and billing
- Maintained as Ag use until demand for direct M&I use develops

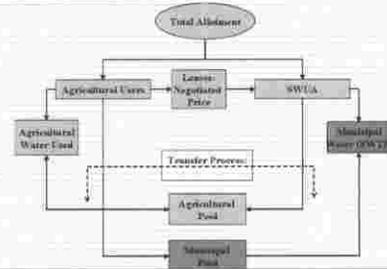
Who Can Form SWUAs?

- Municipalities
- Counties
- State Universities
- Member-owned community systems
- Public utilities
- Interstate Stream Commission

Traditional Ag - to - Ag transfers



SWUA Ag - to - M&I transfers



Application to River Restoration

- Restoration on water-righted land
 - Order-delivery
 - Drain restoration sites
 - Passive flow - Bosque Park
 - Instream flow order/delivery
 - Relation to downstream Project delivery
-