



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

UNITED STATES SECTION

*Mexico's Rio Grande Water Deliveries to
the United States*

Sally E. Spener, Secretary
International Boundary and Water Commission
May 10, 2017

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1944 WATER TREATY



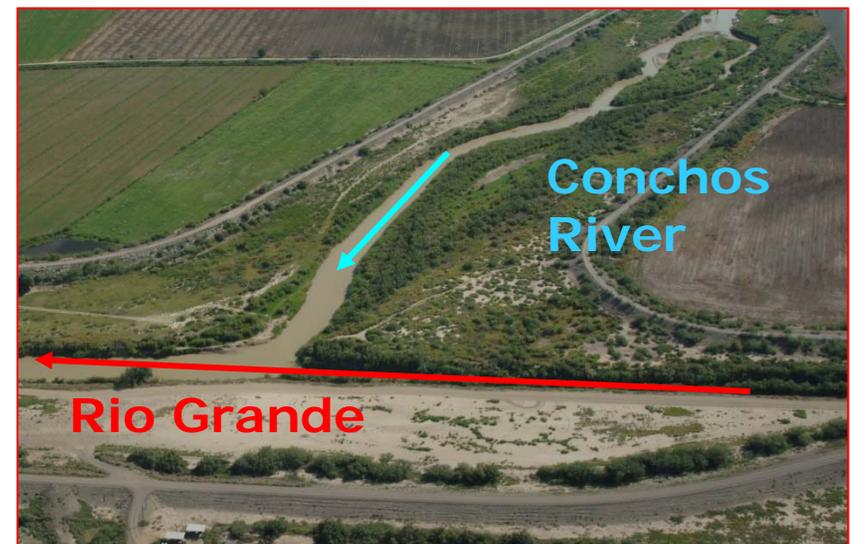
Rio Grande near Mission

- ◆ Covers Rio Grande from Ft. Quitman to the Gulf
- ◆ Mexico delivers water to US from 6 tributaries
- ◆ US receives 1/3 of flow arriving in the Rio Grande from the 6 tributaries
- ◆ 1/3 shall not be less, as an average amount in cycles of 5 consecutive years, than 350,000 acre-feet annually



1944 WATER TREATY

- ◆ Mx tributaries allotted 1/3 to US, 2/3 to Mx:
 - ▶ Conchos, Arroyo las Vacas, San Rodrigo, Escondido, Salado, San Diego
- ◆ Mx tributaries allotted 100% to Mx
 - ▶ Alamo, San Juan
- ◆ All major US tributaries allotted 100% to US
- ◆ Historically 70% of water originates in Mexico but 50% allotted to US

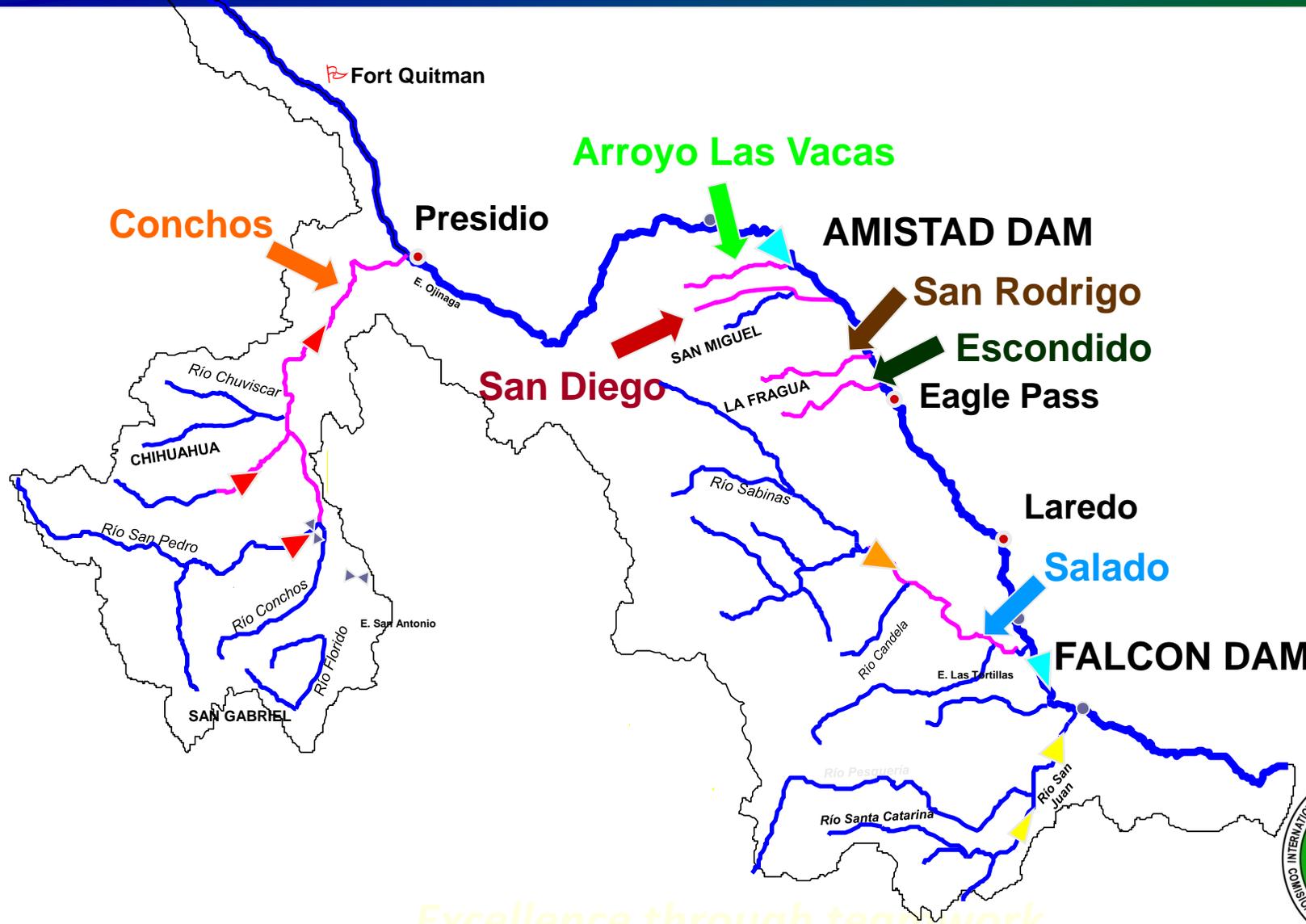


Conchos-Rio Grande confluence



1944 WATER TREATY

MEXICO'S TREATY TRIBUTARIES



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1944 WATER TREATY

- ◆ Current cycle began 10/25/15
- ◆ Mexico has until 10/24/20 to deliver 1.75 maf
 - ▶ Exceptions:
 - Extraordinary drought
 - Serious accident
 - When US conservation capacity fills in the reservoirs all debts are canceled and a new cycle begins
- ◆ If a cycle ends in deficit, Mexico repays in next cycle



Rio Grande upstream from Anzalduas Dam



1944 WATER TREATY



Amistad Dam

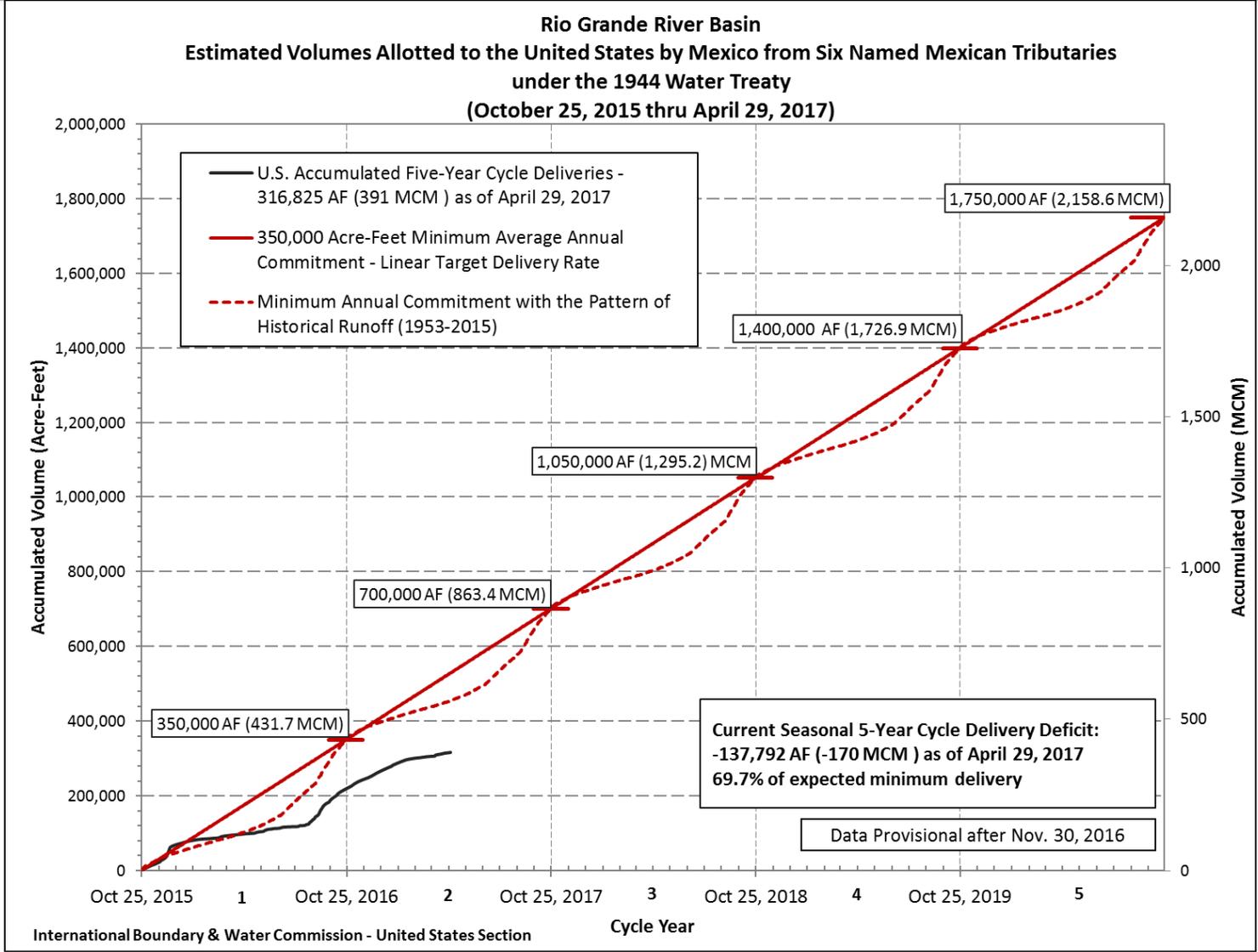
- ◆ Waters for both countries are stored at the 2 international reservoirs
 - ▶ Falcon Dam – near Falcon Heights, TX
 - ▶ Amistad Dam near Del Rio, TX:



Falcon Dam



PRECENT CYCLE STATUS



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PRESENT CYCLE STATUS

- ◆ Mx delivered 482 kaf 10/25/15-10/24/16
 - ▶ 263,250 a/f to cover 2010-2015 debt
 - ▶ Remainder credited to 2015-2020 cycle
- ◆ Current deficit is 137,792 kaf



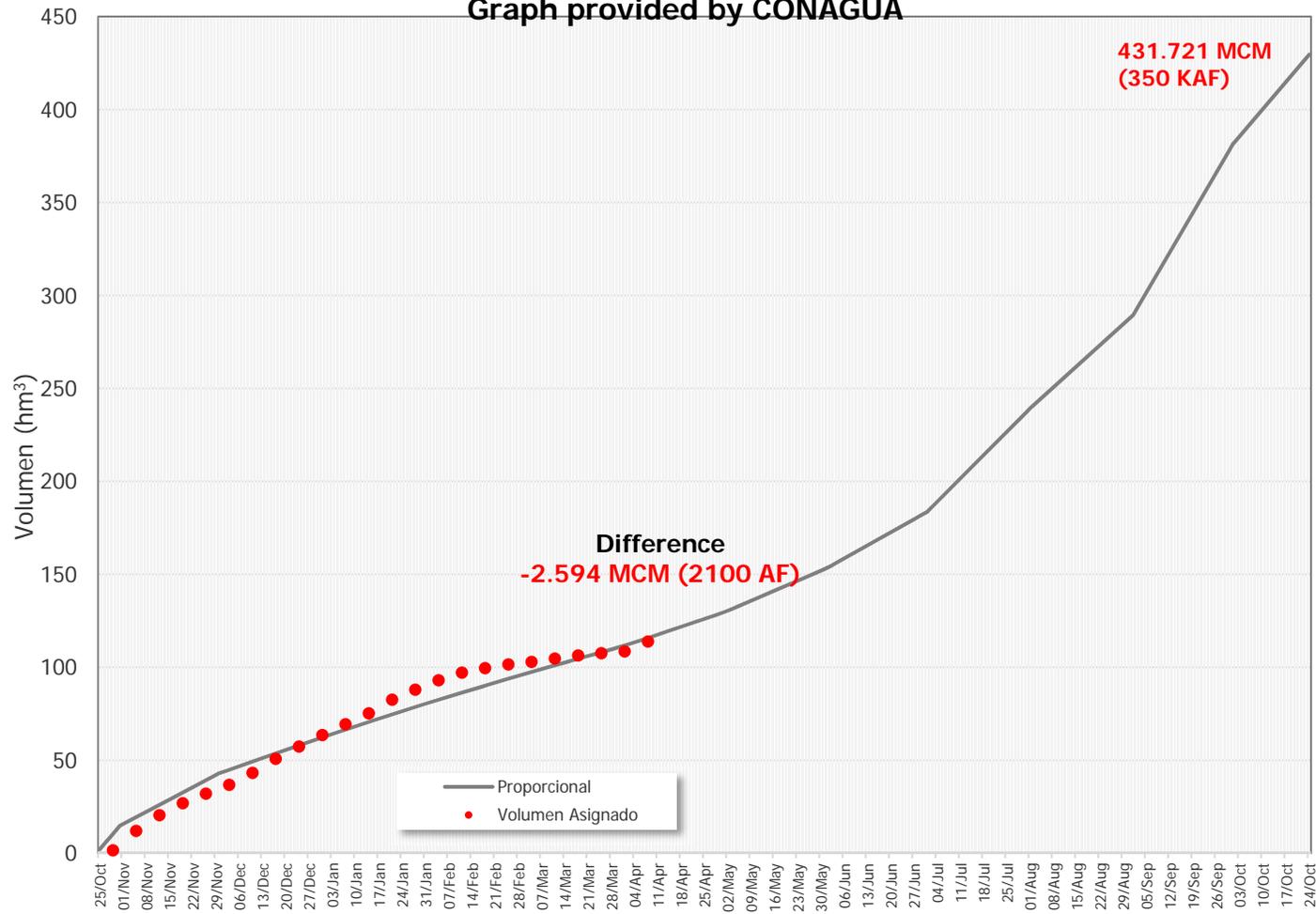
**Rio Grande in Big Bend region,
downstream from
Conchos River confluence**



PRECENT CYCLE STATUS

Deliveries 10/25/16 – 4/8/17

Graph provided by CONAGUA



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CURRENT BASIN STATUS

- ◆ Storage on Mexico's 6 Tributaries (05/08/2017)
 - ▶ Current Usable Storage: 2.95 MAF
 - ▶ 70.7% of conservation capacity
- ◆ Storage in Rio Gr. Basin in Mx
 - ▶ Current Usable Storage: 3.99 MAF
 - ▶ 70.2% of conservation capacity



Francisco Madero Dam



CURRENT BASIN STATUS

◆ Storage in International Reservoirs (05/08/17)

▶ Amistad

■ 50.9 % of conservation capacity

■ 1,667,000 acre-feet

▶ Falcon

■ 26.9 % of conservation capacity

■ 713,300 acre-feet

◆ National Ownership in International Reservoirs(04/29/17)

▶ U.S. – 60.3 % of U.S. Conservation Capacity

▶ Mexico – 18.5% of Mexico's Conservation Capacity



Falcon Dam, 2010 flood



1944 WATER TREATY

- ◆ Mexican deliveries to the US are continuous
- ◆ USIBWC always receives at least 1/3 of the flow arriving from the 6 tributaries



**Boquilla Reservoir in the
Conchos Basin (2013)**



TREATY COMPLIANCE

- ◆ Commission has been meeting periodically to address the deficit
- ◆ Working to implement short- and long-term strategies
- ◆ IBWC has developed modeling tools and a naturalized flow approach for equitable distribution of waters
- ◆ Mexican Stakeholders working on long-term domestic solution to resolve shortfalls in the Basin



**2016 Commission meeting in
Mercedes, TX**



TREATY COMPLIANCE

- ◆ Mexico to release water from 3 treaty tributaries April-June to reduce deficit:
 - ▶ San Rodrigo
 - ▶ Salado
 - ▶ Conchos
- ◆ Est. delivery of 49,000 acre-feet to US, covering about 1/3 of year 1 deficit
- ◆ Current year deliveries depend on conditions; full delivery expected under median conditions



**Madero Dam in Conchos Basin,
2008 flood releases**



TREATY COMPLIANCE

- ◆ IBWC to form Binational Hydrology Work Group
- ◆ Group will consider data, modeling, and operations to address treaty compliance
- ◆ Policy group will meet every few months to discuss treaty compliance actions
- ◆ State of Texas and CONAGUA serve as technical advisors



**Meeting with technical advisors
in Austin, TX**





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