



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

UNITED STATES SECTION

# Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum

Rosalba Montes, AOM- Upper Rio Grande Projects  
International Boundary and Water Commission  
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# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

## UNITED STATES SECTION

### **Presentation Overview**

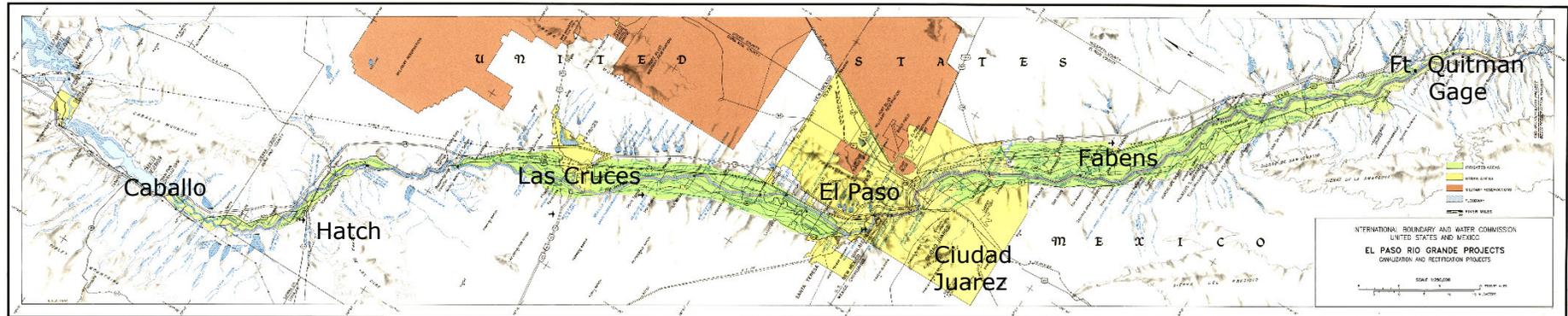
- 1. USIBWC Mission**
- 2. Canalization/Rectification Regional Mission**
- 3. Sediment Problem**
- 4. Desilting Efforts (FY2018, FY2019, and future)**
- 5. Water Deliveries/Irrigation Season**
- 6. River Management Plan and Environmental Assessments**
- 7. On Going Construction Activities**

# 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.*



# Canalization/Rectification Projects



## ➤ Flood Control Mission

- Levees
- Caballo Flood Operations
- Sediment Control Dams - sediment control dams in partnership with EBID and Caballo Natural Resource Conservation Service District

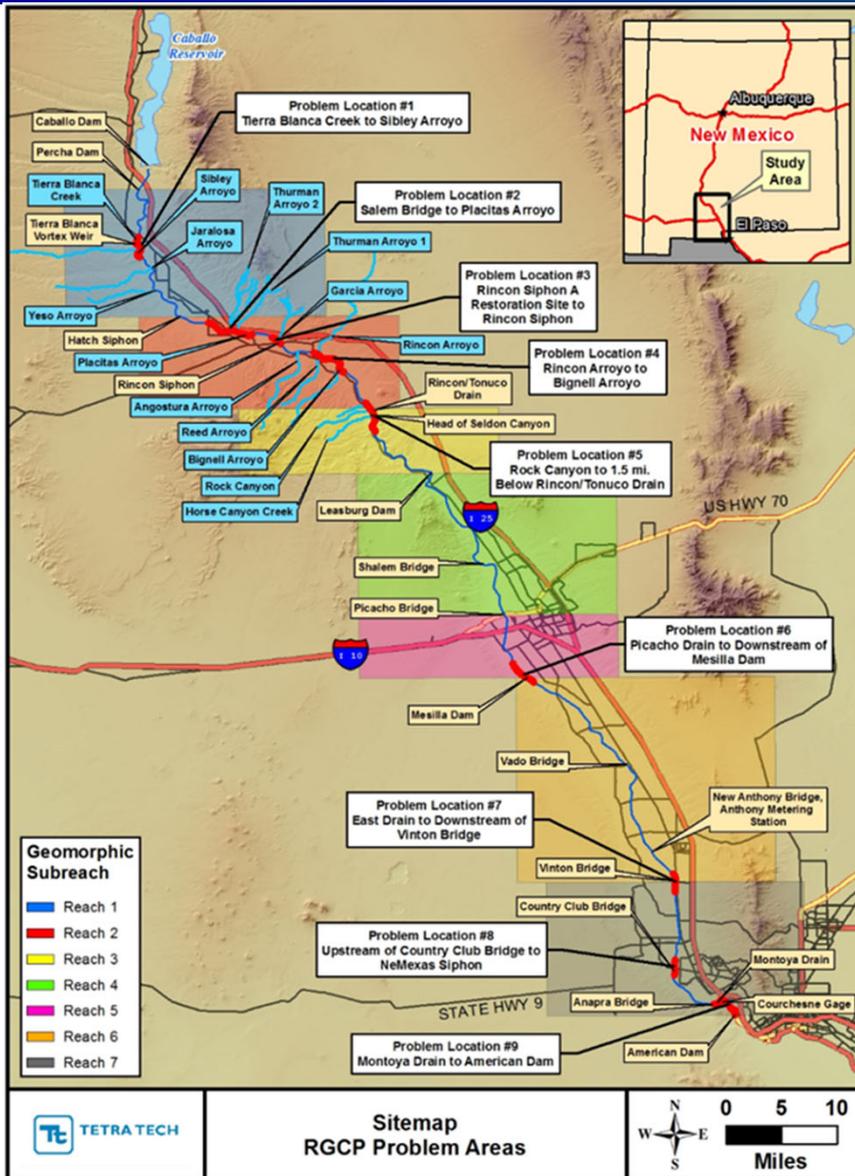
## ➤ Water Delivery to Mexico Mission

- American Dam – Diverts US water into American canal
- International Dam – Diverts Mexico water into Acequia Madre Inlet
- Gaging stations

## ➤ Environmental Restoration



# Upper Rio Grande System Sediment Problem



- Estimated 450,000 – 490,000 cubic yards of silt enters the Canalization reach annually.
- Resulting In:
  - Sediment Plugs
  - Island Formations
  - Raising of River Beds
  - Increases in Water Surface Elevations
  - Increased Flooding Risk to Adjoining Communities
  - Sediment Accumulation Prevents Draining of Irrigation Return Flows

**Rio Grande Canalization Project  
Channel Maintenance Alternative  
and Sediment Transport Study  
identified nine problem locations.**



# Upper Rio Grande System FY 2018 Desilting Efforts

- Removed over 500,000 cubic yards within the Canalization and Rectification reaches of the Rio Grande.
  - Canalization 182,521 cubic yards (13 Bridge Crossings and Montana Drain intersection)
  - Rectification 320, 111 cy (Alamo & Guayuco Arroyos, Ft. Quitman and downstream)
- Inspected and maintained 5 New Mexico sediment control dam/basins.
  - Green Arroyo
  - Crow Canyon
  - Jalarosa Arroyo 1&2
  - Broad Canyon
  - Berrenda



**Berrenda Dam**

- Levee and mowing maintenance throughout Canalization/Rectification
- Operate and maintain American and International Diversion Dams.



# Canalization Projects FY2018



**Sunland Park**



**Mesquite Bridge**



**Courchesne Bridge**



**Canutillo Bridge**



# Rectification Project FY2018 Guayuco Arroyo



**BEFORE**  
Looking upstream  
(US on right)



**DURING**  
Looking downstream  
(US on left)



**COMPLETED**  
Looking downstream



# FY2019 Desilting Efforts



**Canutillo before and after silt removal**



**Shalem before and after silt removal**



# FY2019 Desilting Efforts



**Chamizal – downstream of concrete lining**



**Chamizal – Chihuahuita Area**



# FY2019 Desilting Efforts



**American Dam**



**I-10 Las Cruces**



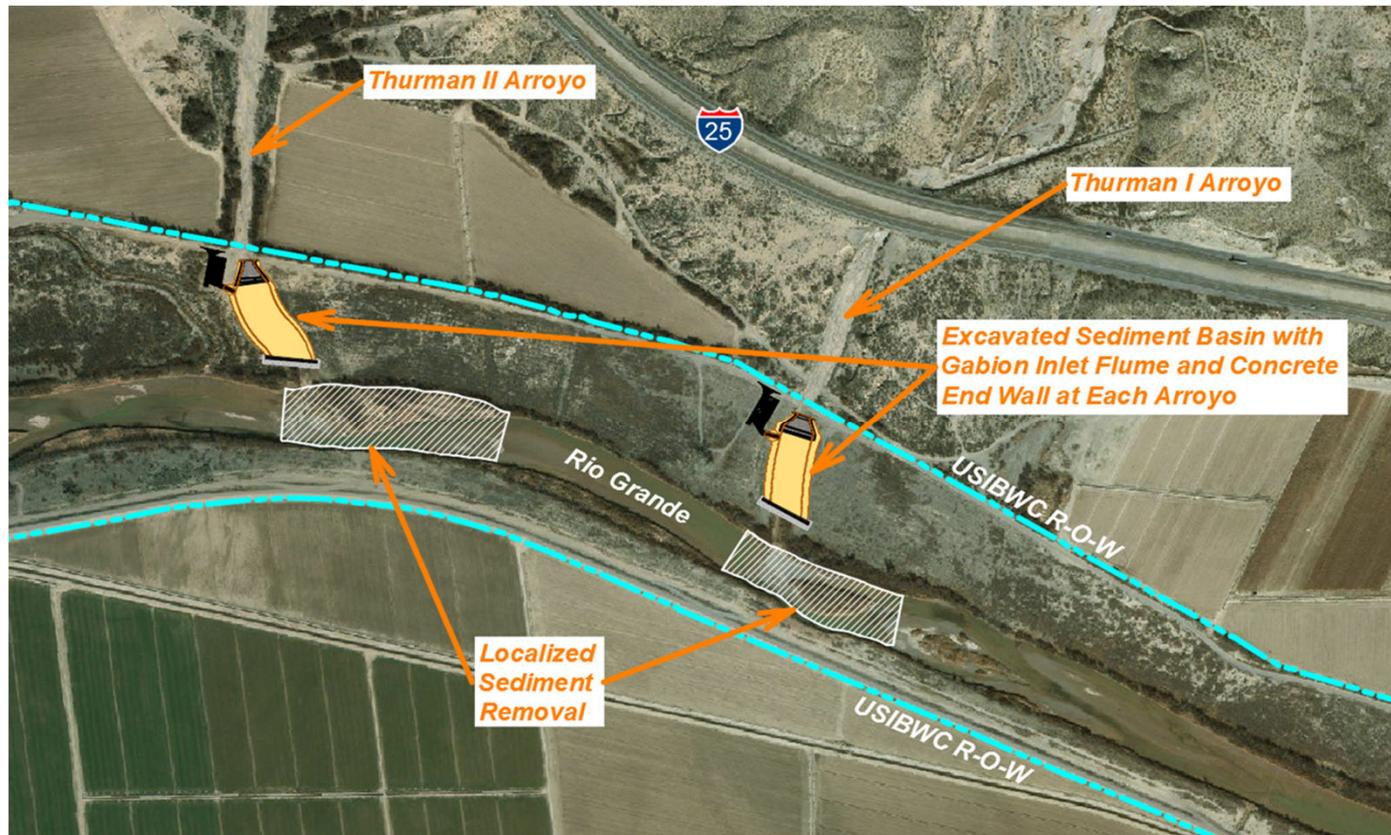
# FY2019 Desilting Efforts

REACH	LOCATION	CY REMOVED
<b>CANALIZATION</b>		
Shalem	Upstream of Shalem Bridge	15,692
I-10 Las Cruces		7,274
Canutillo	Upstream of Canutillo Bridge	6,008
Courchesne to American Dam	13 islands	114,000
		<b>142,974</b>
<b>CHAMIZAL PROJECT</b>		
Chamizal Channel/Chihuahuita		10,633
Unlined Chamizal	From end of concrete lining to 800 ft.	3,200
		<b>13,833</b>
<b>RECTIFICATION</b>		
Ft Quitman to Neely's	Ft Quitman to W. of McClintock	78,607
Guayuco Arroyo	Mouth of Guayuco	1,862
		<b>80,469</b>
<b>BOUNDARY PRESERVATION</b>		
Frailes Arroyo		300
	<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>237,576</b>



# RGCP Channel Maintenance Alternatives

- FY 2018 the following pilot studies were awarded:
  - Thurman Arroyo 1 Sediment Basin
  - Thurman Arroyo 2 Sediment Basin



# Thurman I & II Pilot Project



Thurman I & II – fine grading and end wall steel reinforcement

- By End of March 2019, approximately 125, 000 cy of sediment removed.



# Future Projects

- Rincon Area
- Hatch Area
- Salem Bridge Crossing
- Neely's Arroyo
- Other areas requiring immediate attention



# Water Delivery Mission Convention of 1906

- Distribution between Mexico and the US of the waters of the Rio Grande in El Paso-Juarez
- U.S. to deliver 60,000 acre-feet/year
- 2019 irrigation season
  - Release date from Caballo – May 31, 2019
  - EP#1, EBID, and Mexico – start delivery around June 5<sup>th</sup>.



**American Dam**



# Canalization River Management Plan

- RMP was updated in Nov 2018 and distributed for stakeholder review.
- Finalize in Spring 2019 (target)
- RMP covers:
  - Floodplain Management
  - Endangered Species Management
  - Channel Maintenance
  - USIBWC's 2009 Record of Decision (ROD) expires in June 2019. Comments incorporated in RMP.
  - Environmental Assessments (EA) in process.
  - RMP and EA superseded the ROD.
  - O&M and EMD working closely on environmental issues during the sediment removal process.
- Public Review and Comments:
  - Announcement at end of this presentation.

Levee Maintenance



Mow Areas



Restoration Efforts



# Ongoing Projects

## ➤ American Canal Upper Reach

- Construction Phase In progress. Contract completion date May 2019.



## ➤ American Canal Lower Reach

- Design estimated to be completed June 2019. Estimate solicitation for construction 2020.

## ➤ Sunland Park Levee: Two levee designs –West & East

- West – Borderland Bridge (S) to Nemexus Drain. May completion.
- East – Borderland Bridge (N) to El Paso Electric Plant. Summer completion.



# Ongoing Projects

## ➤ Wasteway 1 & 2

- Construction completed Summer 2018.  
Pending close-out.
- EPCWID1 plans to extend the Wasteway #2 structure and work on the check structure



## ➤ Vado Levee – West

- In-house design for erosion repairs. Proposed for construction solicitation at end of this fiscal year.
- Note: Vado East improvements is completed.



# 30 Day Public Comments

Two Environmental Assessments (EA) for the Rio Grande Canalization Project are in progress:

1) Evaluation of possible aquatic habitat restoration areas including assessing feasibility of establishing areas for wetlands and fish habitat.

2) The continued implementation of the River Management Plan and will cover aspects such as channel maintenance, habitat restoration, and recreation.

- Available by the beginning of May and will be posted on USIBWC website.
- A 30-day public comment period for each and public hearings for both projects.
- To be included in the distribution lists or if you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Verdecchia at [Elizabeth.verdecchia@ibwc.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.verdecchia@ibwc.gov) or 915-832-4701.



**THANK YOU!**





# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

## UNITED STATES SECTION

### **HEADQUARTERS**

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