Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum

Rosalba Montes, AOM- Upper Rio Grande Projects
International Boundary and Water Commission
April 11, 2019
Presentation Overview

1. USIBWC Mission
2. Canalization/Rectification Regional Mission
3. Sediment Problem
5. Water Deliveries/Irrigation Season
6. River Management Plan and Environmental Assessments
7. On Going Construction Activities
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
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

- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REACH</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>CY REMOVED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CANALIZATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shalem</td>
<td>Upstream of Shalem Bridge</td>
<td>15,692</td>
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<tr>
<td>I-10 Las Cruces</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canutillo</td>
<td>Upstream of Canutillo Bridge</td>
<td>6,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courchesne to American Dam</td>
<td>13 islands</td>
<td>114,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>142,974</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHAMIZAL PROJECT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamizal Channel/Chihuahuita</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unlined Chamizal</td>
<td>From end of concrete lining to 800 ft.</td>
<td>3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>13,833</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RECTIFICATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ft Quitman to Neely's</td>
<td>Ft Quitman to W. of McClintock</td>
<td>78,607</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guayuco Arroyo</td>
<td>Mouth of Guayuco</td>
<td>1,862</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>80,469</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOUNDARY PRESERVATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Frailes Arroyo</td>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>237,576</strong></td>
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</table>
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 5th.
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.
Ongoing Projects

- **American Canal Upper Reach**

- **American Canal Lower Reach**

- **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**
  - 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.
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 or 915-832-4701.
THANK YOU!