



# RIO GRANDE CITIZENS' FORUM ORIENTATION

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# 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.*



# USIBWC MISSION STATEMENT

*Provide binational solutions to issues that arise during the application of United States-Mexico treaties regarding boundary demarcation, national ownership of waters, sanitation, water quality, and flood control in the border region.*



# HISTORY



# EARLY HISTORY OF THE IBWC

- **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)** – Established the international boundary
- **Treaty of December 30, 1853** – Re-established the southern boundary of New Mexico and Arizona
- **Convention of July 29, 1882** – Established a temporary commission to survey the land boundary and establish monuments



# EARLY HISTORY OF THE IBWC

- **Convention of Nov. 12, 1884** – Adopted rules to address questions that arose about the location of the boundary when the rivers changed course
- **Convention of March 1, 1889** – Established the International Boundary Commission to apply the rules of the 1884 Convention
- **Banco Convention (1905)** – Modified the 1889 treaty to retain the Rio Grande and the Colorado River as the boundary





# CONVENTION OF 1906

- Distribution between Mexico and the U.S. of the waters of the Rio Grande in the El Paso-Juarez region
- U.S. to deliver 60,000 acre-feet per year
- Proportional reduction in deliveries in case of extraordinary drought
- Water stored in Elephant Butte Dam, NM



American Dam



# CONVENTION OF 1933

- Stabilized the international boundary in the El Paso-Juarez Valley
- Straightened the river channel
- Flood control levees in both countries
- Rio Grande Rectification Project







RIO GRANDE RECTIFICATION PROJECT IN THE EL PASO-JUAREZ VALLEY



RIVER BED AND RECTIFIED CHANNEL



# STRUCTURE PER 1944 TREATY

## INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION (IBWC)

### MEXICAN SECTION

- Mexican Commissioner
- Secretary
- Two Principal Engineers
- Legal Adviser

### US SECTION

- US Commissioner
- Secretary
- Two Principal Engineers
- Legal Adviser

# 1944 WATER TREATY– RIO GRANDE

- Mexico delivers water to the U.S. in cycles of five years between Ft. Quitman and the Gulf
- U.S. receives 1/3 of the waters arriving in the Rio Grande from six Mexican tributaries, a minimum annual average of 350,000 acre-feet
- Mexico incurred a deficit in deliveries in the 1990s but has since paid off the deficit
- Treaty authorized construction of up to three storage dams on Rio Grande, only 2 were built

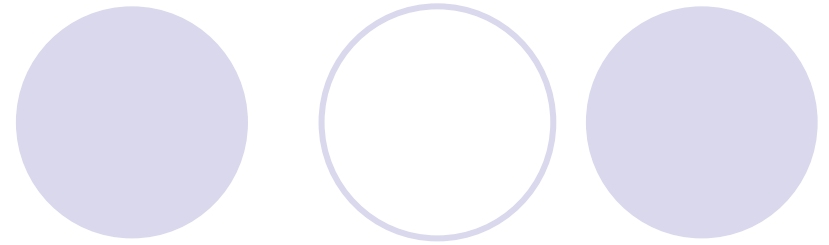


# 1944 WATER TREATY— COLORADO RIVER

- U.S. to deliver to Mexico a volume of 1.5 million acre-feet per year
- When there are surplus waters, U.S. to deliver to Mexico a total volume of up to 1.7 million acre-feet per year
- In extraordinary drought, Mexico reduced in proportion to U.S.



# IBWC MINUTES



- Decisions of the Commission are recorded in the form of Minutes
- Minutes are binding agreements of the IBWC intended to implement treaty.
- They take effect once approved by the U.S. Department of State and Mexico's Foreign Affairs Ministry
- Over 300 Minutes



# CHAMIZAL CONVENTION (1963)





# 1970 BOUNDARY TREATY

- IBWC to maintain the Rio Grande and Colorado River as the international boundary
- Boundary is middle of the channel occupied by normal flow or middle of the channel which in normal flows has the greatest average width over its length
- IBWC to delineate the boundary on maps
- IBWC may stabilize or rectify the channel (numerous rectifications carried out)
- Prohibits construction of works that would obstruct or deflect normal or flood flows



# PROJECTS



# SANITATION PROJECTS

- 3 international wastewater treatment plants
  - San Diego, CA
  - Nogales, AZ
  - Nuevo Laredo, Tamps.



**Excavation for plant upgrade in San Diego**

# WATER QUALITY

- Treaties do not regulate water quality
- IBWC has conducted binational water quality studies with partners from both countries
- Water quality data is routinely exchanged
- Working on binational water quality database
- Texas Clean Rivers Program for the Rio Grande conducts regular monitoring and publishes reports



# CANALIZATION PROJECT

- Constructed 1938-1943
- 106 miles from Percha Dam to American Dam
- Water delivery and flood control project
- 130 miles of flood control levees
- Sediment control dams on arroyos



Canalization Project, El Paso

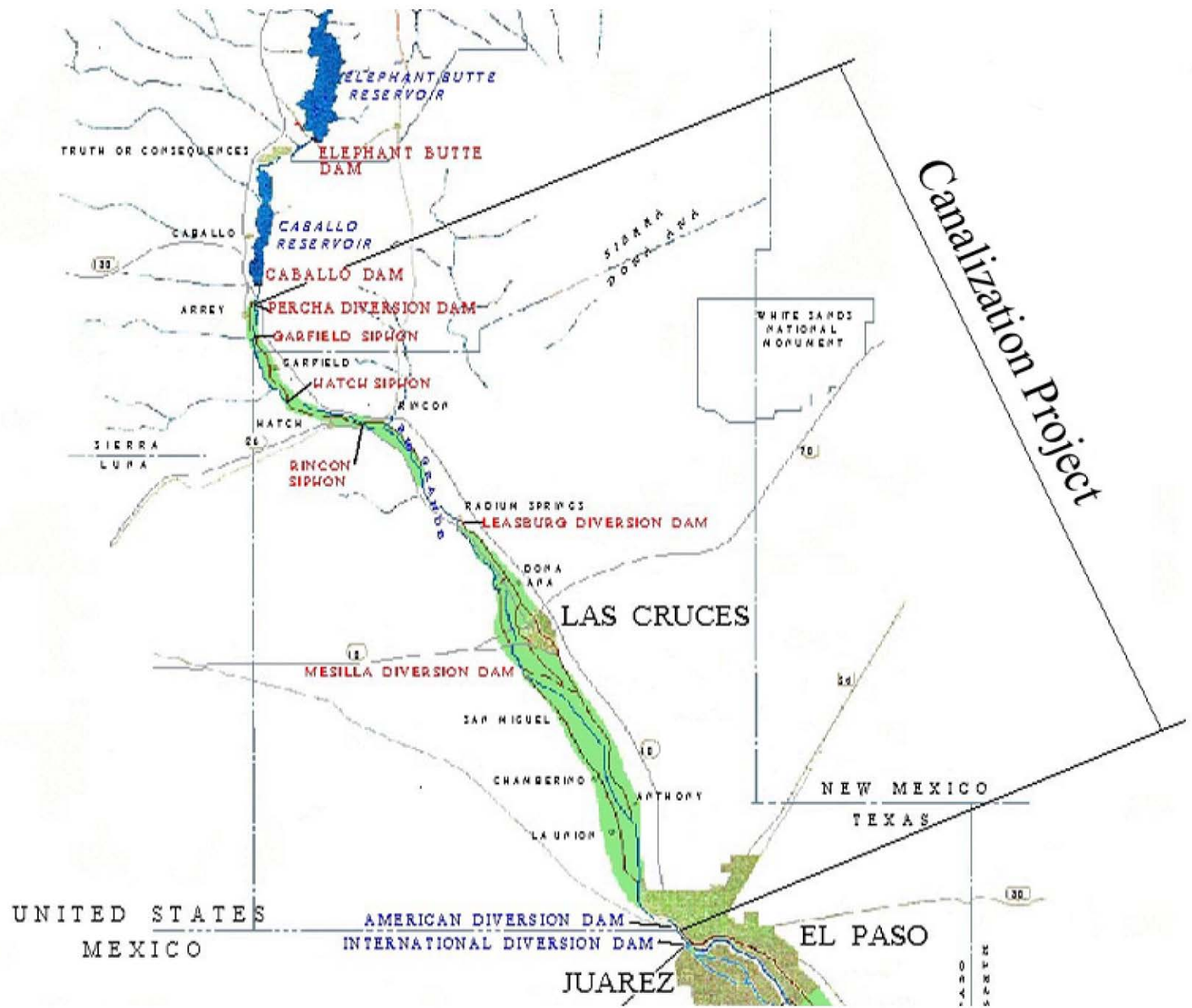
# UPPER RIO GRANDE PROJECTS



International Dam







# CHAMIZAL PROJECT

- Located at El Paso, TX-Cd. Juarez, Chih.
- Concrete-lined channel for 4 miles



# RECTIFICATION PROJECT

- El Paso, TX to Fort Quitman, TX
- Flood protection and boundary stabilization
- 85 miles of U.S. levees



**Rectification Project Levee**



NEW MEXICO

# Rio Grande Rectification Project

## El Paso to Fort Quitman 91 Miles



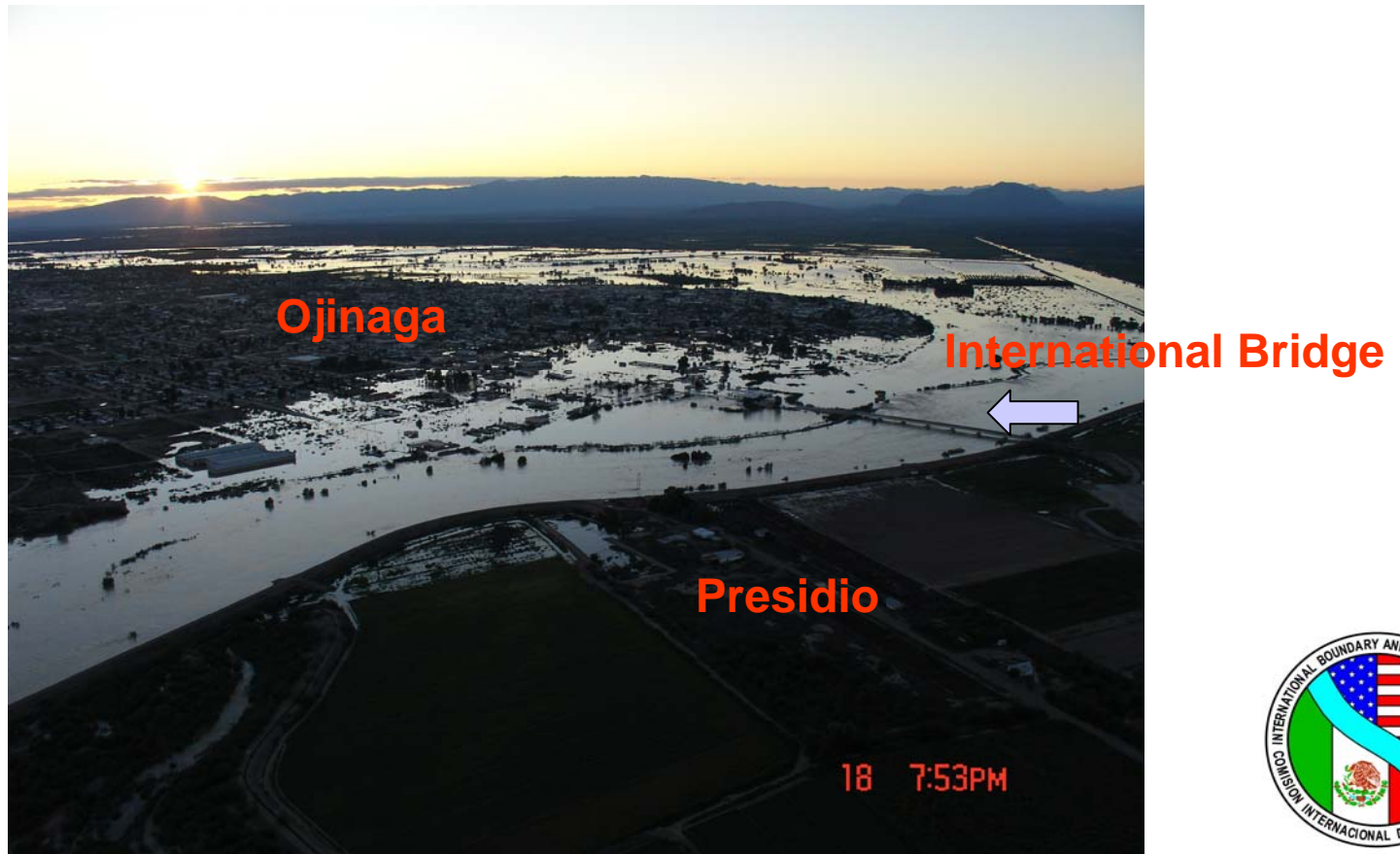
# PRESIDIO PROJECT

- Flood Control Project – 13 river miles
- Water accounting



# PRESIDIO PROJECT

- Conchos River flood caused Rio Grande flood at Presidio-Ojinaga in September-October 2008





# OTHER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

- Lower Rio Grande
  - 180 river miles from Peñitas, TX to Gulf of Mexico
  - 270 miles of U.S. levees
  - 30,000 acres of interior floodway in U.S.
  - 2 diversion dams
- Tijuana River – small project at San Diego-Tijuana



# INTERNATIONAL STORAGE DAMS

- Amistad Dam (Del Rio, TX)
- Falcon Dam (Falcon Heights, TX)
- Purposes
  - Flood Control
  - Recreation
  - Hydroelectric Power
  - Water Supply



**AMISTAD DAM**

# INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND BORDER CROSSINGS



- International bridges (34+)
- Border Crossings/Ports on the land boundary (23+)
- Crossing of utility/service lines (43+)
- Review border infrastructure projects to ensure no deflection of surface water

# BOUNDARY DEMARCATION

- U.S. and Mexican Sections of IBWC jointly determine location of the boundary and demarcate the boundary
- 258 principal monuments between El Paso, TX-Cd. Juarez, Chih. and the Pacific Ocean
- Hundreds of intermediate boundary markers
- Boundary demarcation plaques at ports of entry/international bridges
- IBWC responsible for maintaining the monuments and preparing boundary maps





# BOUNDARY DEMARCATION



Monument No. 123, Nogales



Mon. No. 119, Arizona-Sonora

# CITIZENS' FORUM







# CITIZENS' FORUM PURPOSE

- To facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the local community regarding ongoing and future USIBWC projects in the area (Percha Dam to Ft. Quitman)
- The Citizens' Forum is intended to bring together community members enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, water managers, irrigation districts, government agencies, etc.



# BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

- Attend public meetings four times per year
- Meetings alternate between sites in El Paso and Las Cruces
- Board term is for two years
- Board members are expected to be available to the public to facilitate the exchange of information



# BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

- Review and comment on technical documents and activities associated with USIBWC projects in the area
- Discuss plans and issues related to ongoing and future USIBWC projects
- CF is not a federal advisory board; goal is to exchange information and to receive feedback from a diversity of viewpoints
- Members serve as volunteers. There is no reimbursement for expenses.

# CITIZENS' FORUM LEADERSHIP

- Two Co-Chairs
- USIBWC Co-Chair
  - Principal Engineer Al Riera
- Community Co-Chair
  - Selected by the board





# CITIZENS' FORUM INFORMATION

- All meetings are open to the public
- Regular communication with the board via e-mail
- Meeting notices, notes/minutes, and presentations are available online at:

[www.ibwc.gov/Citizens\\_Forums/CF\\_URG.html](http://www.ibwc.gov/Citizens_Forums/CF_URG.html)

# UPPER RIO GRANDE ISSUES

- Levee rehabilitation
- Environmental enhancements
- Invasive species control
- Dredging/sediment removal
- Water quality monitoring
- Water deliveries and water accounting
- American Canal rehabilitation
- Asarco contamination
- Recreation and safety
- Groundwater studies

# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND MEXICO UNITED STATES SECTION

## USIBWC HEADQUARTERS

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