

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, UNITED STATES SECTION





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

IBWC STRUCTURE

- Established in 1889 to address issues when boundary rivers shifted
- Each Commissioner appointed by his respective president
- When the two Sections meet as a Commission, they have the status of an International Organization
- Each Section employs its own staff
- IBWC staff operate projects, including joint operation of dams



U.S. Com. Carlos Marin



IBWC STRUCTURE

- Decisions of the Commission shall be recorded in the form of Minutes
- Minutes are subject to approval by the Governments (State, SRE) and are binding
- 312 IBWC Minutes



MISSION OF THE USIBWC

Our mission is to provide boundary, water and environmental solutions along the United States-Mexico border region through leadership, binational cooperation, and future sustainability in a manner that is responsive to stakeholders.

IBWC OFFICES ON THE BORDER



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

OTHER BOUNDARY TREATIES

- **Convention of 1933/Rio Grande Rectification Project** – Stabilize the international boundary in the El Paso-Juarez Valley
- **Chamizal Convention (1963)** – Relocate the Rio Grande in a new channel in El Paso-Juarez



RIO GRANDE RECTIFICATION PROJECT IN THE EL PASO-JUAREZ VALLEY



RIVER BED AND RECTIFIED CHANNEL

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 international boundary on maps
- IBWC may stabilize or rectify the channel



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.

1944 WATER TREATY

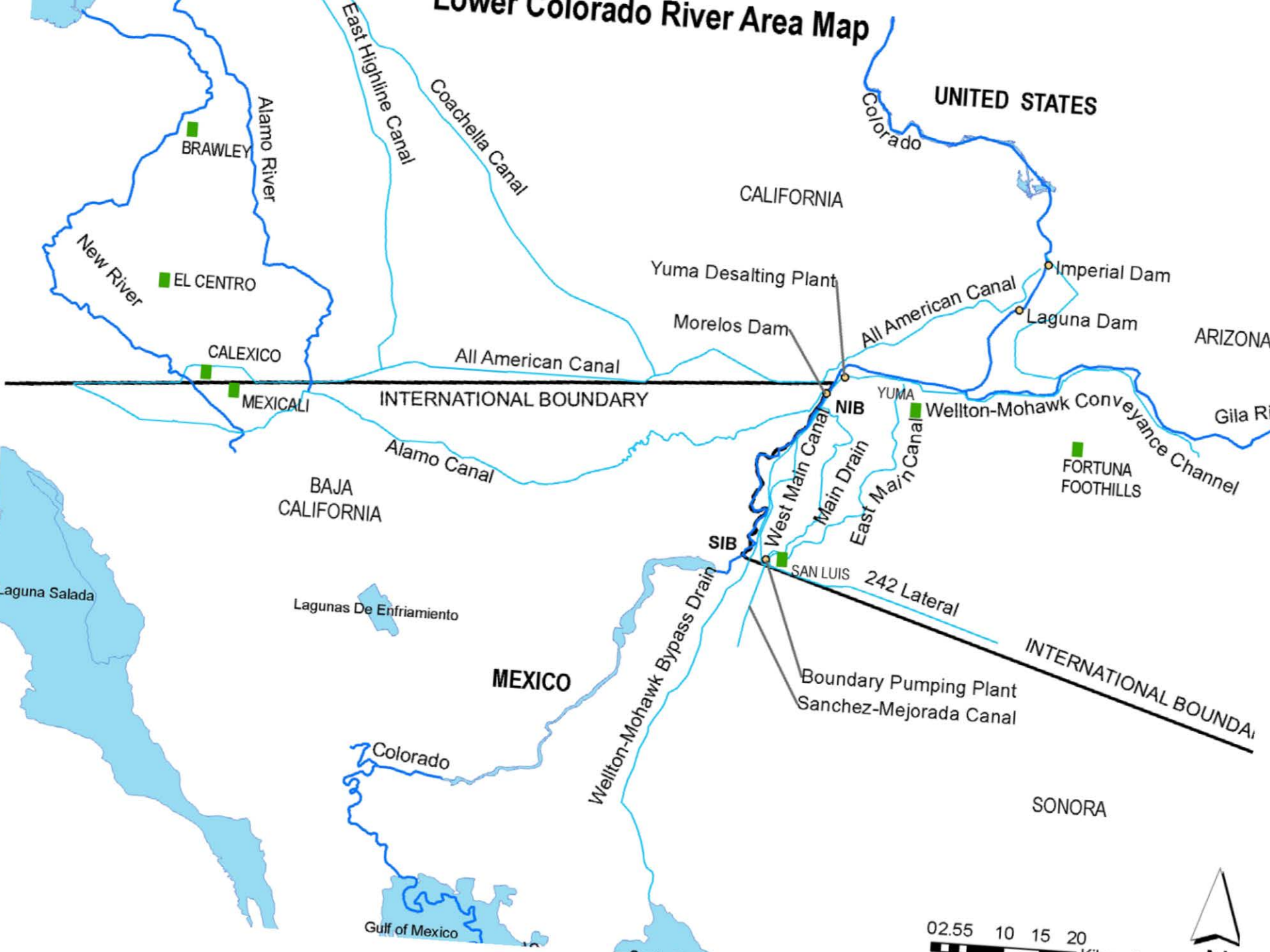
(Rio Grande, Ft. Quitman to the Gulf)

- Mexico to deliver annual average of 350,000 acre-feet to U.S. in cycles of five years
- U.S. allotted $\frac{1}{3}$ of water arriving in Rio Grande from 6 Mexican tributaries
- Flows from unmeasured tributaries shared 50-50
- Two international storage dams



PROJECTS IN THE COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS' FORUM REGION

Lower Colorado River Area Map





MORELOS DAM

- Located west of Yuma near Algodones
- Constructed in 1950
- 1400 feet long
- 20 gates
- Diverts Colorado River water to Mexico
- Mexico covers all costs
- Sedimentation of spillway

ALGODONES

ESTACION HIDROMETRICA
LINDERO INTERNACIONAL NORTE

MTD. NUM. 206

ALAMO CANAL

MON. NO. 206

BOCATOMA
PRESA
MORELOS

ERIOR

PRESA MORELOS

A

MORELOS DAM

UTHERN

PACIFIC

RR

NORTHERLY INTERNATIONAL
BOUNDARY GAGING STATION

WELLTON-MOHAWI

COOPER

LATERAL

POWER PLANT

9TH





COLORADO RIVER INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE

- Five Work Groups:
 - Sediment
 - Salinity
 - Carrying capacity and boundary preservation
 - Colorado River Delta
 - All-American Canal Lining
- Task force includes participation of Bureau of Reclamation, Mexico's National Water Commission (Conagua)

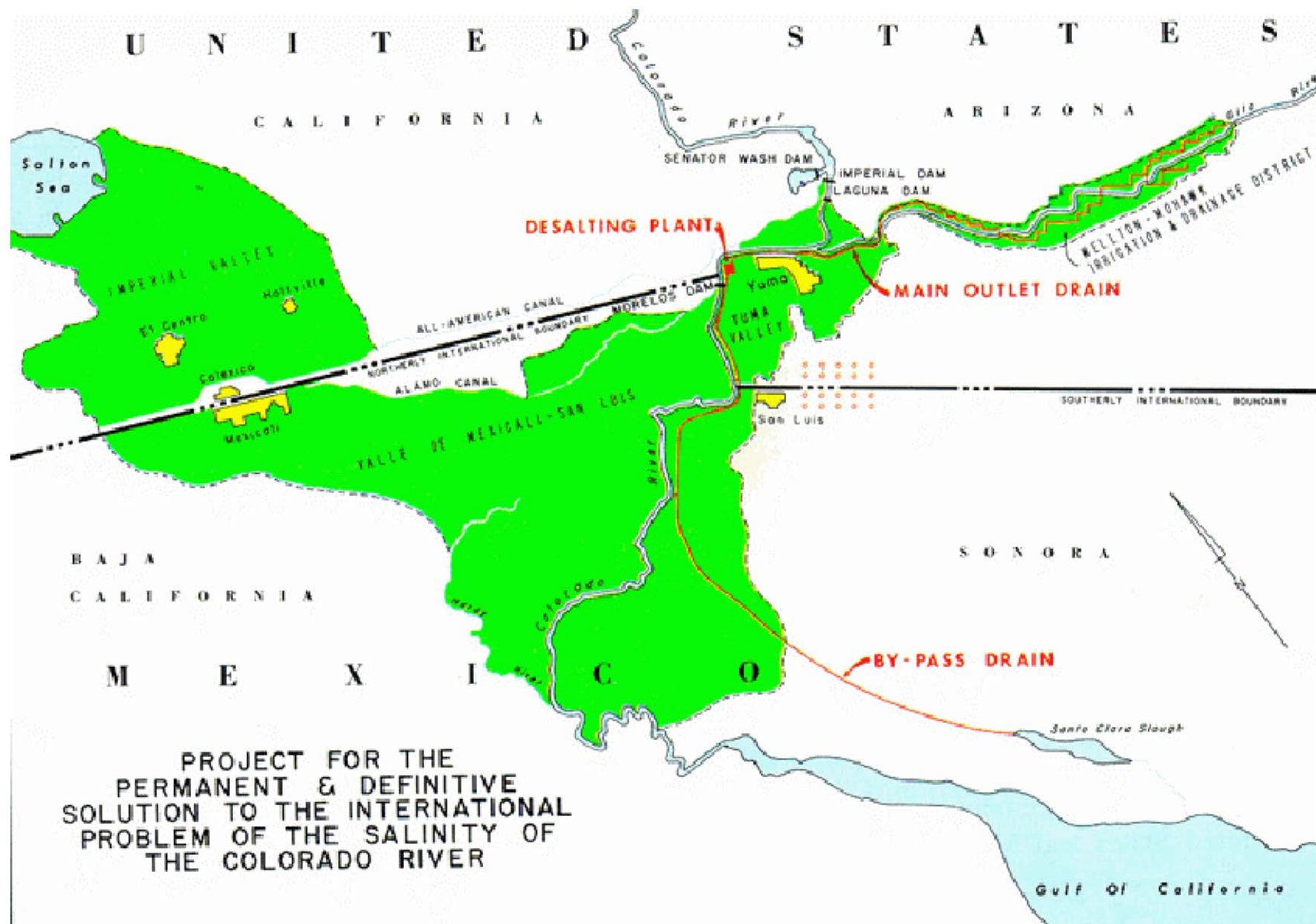
SEDIMENT AT MORELOS DAM





COLORADO RIVER SALINITY CONTROL

- Minute 242 (1973) regulates the salinity of water delivered to Mexico
- Water delivered to Mexico must be similar in quality to water delivered to U.S. users at Imperial Dam
- Wellton Mohawk Canal bypasses saline flows to the Santa Clara Slough in Mexico
- Desalination plant in the U.S. can be made operational when needed
- Additional pumps and channels at SIB reduce spikes





CARRYING CAPACITY AND BOUNDARY PRESERVATION

- Studies for long-term channel capacity improvements
- Maintain the river channel as the international boundary
- Project could include new river alignments, dredging, levee work

CARRYING CAPACITY AND BOUNDARY PRESERVATION



Colorado River below Morelos Dam

COLORADO RIVER DELTA

- Minute 306 – Framework for U.S.-Mexico cooperation on Colorado River Delta ecosystem
- Binational Advisory Committee established
- Restoration and conservation projects
 - Advisory Committee has proposed various restoration and conservation projects
 - Projects relate to improving flow regimes to benefit ecosystems, habitat improvement, native plants, and hydraulic modeling



ALL-AMERICAN CANAL

- Located parallel to the border
- Project to line the canal to conserve water for U.S. users
- Potential impact on groundwater seepage to Mexico
- Mexico is opposed to the canal lining
- Issue has been the subject of consultations within the IBWC

ALL-AMERICAN CANAL



NEW RIVER

- Flows from Mexicali north to U.S. through Calexico to Salton Sea
- Water quality a longstanding concern
- New wastewater treatment plant in Mexicali is improving water quality
- Other Proposals
 - Trash screen at border
 - Create wetlands to clean the water
 - Encase the river in Calexico



Giant Salvinia Molesta, 2003



MAINTENANCE OF BOUNDARY MONUMENTS



BORDER FENCING

- Plans for hundreds of miles of fence along the border
- Per 1970 Boundary Treaty, fence may not obstruct or deflect the normal or flood flows of the river
- USIBWC requires monument access, line of sight
- Stormwater concerns on land boundary



Fence project near San Luis



OTHER PROJECTS

UPPER RIO GRANDE PROJECTS

- Canalization Project
 - Water delivery and flood control, S. NM and El Paso, TX
- Chamizal Project
 - Boundary stabilization at El Paso, TX-Cd. Juarez
- Rectification Project
 - Boundary stabilization and flood control
- Two diversion dams



American Dam, El Paso

CHAMIZAL PROJECT





OTHER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

- Presidio, TX
- Tijuana River
- Lower Rio Grande
 - Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, TX
 - 270 miles of levees
 - 2 diversion dams
- Upgrade of Rio Grande levees is underway

INTERNATIONAL STORAGE DAMS

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



AMISTAD DAM

SANITATION PROJECTS

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



SBIWTP in San Diego, CA



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



CITIZENS' FORUM PROGRAM



CITIZENS' FORUM PROGRAM

- Program established in 1999
- USIBWC has 5 Citizens' Forum Boards:
 - San Diego, CA
 - Colorado River (Yuma and Imperial Counties)
 - Southeast Arizona (Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties)
 - Upper Rio Grande (El Paso and Las Cruces area)
 - Lower Rio Grande (Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, Texas)



PURPOSE OF THE CITIZENS' FORUM

- To facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the local community regarding ongoing and future USIBWC projects in the area
- 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, government agencies, irrigation districts, municipalities, etc.



CITIZENS' FORUM BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

- Attend public meetings approximately four times per year
- Meetings in Yuma and Imperial Counties
- Board term is for two years
- Board members are expected to be available to the public to facilitate the exchange of information



CITIZENS' FORUM 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
- CRCF 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
 - Yuma Project Manager John Turner
- Community Co-Chair
 - Selected by the board



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

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