



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
February 8, 2024

USIBWC SELECTS RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM BOARD MEMBERS, PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 15

Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E., Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), has appointed 11 community leaders to serve on the Rio Grande Citizens Forum Board. The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the public about Commission projects and related activities.

The new board members are:

- **Genevieve Allan, Project Management Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque Office**
- **Brenda Barnes, Environmental Consultant, WSP USA Earth & Environment Inc. (El Paso)**
- **Mark Calamia, Cultural Resources Program Manager, National Park Service**
- **Albert Jaramillo Gonzalez, Council Member, City of Sunland Park**
- **Cassandra Hernandez, City Council Representative, City of El Paso**
- **Katie Kruthaupt, Agricultural Programs & Resources Division, New Mexico Department of Agriculture**
- **Omar Martinez, Chair, Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group**
- **Suleiman Masoud, Owner, Del Rio Engineering**
- **Karla Sofia Mendez, Environmental Microbiologist, Public Health Practitioner**
- **Gilbert Mesa, Utility Manager, Fort Bliss Water Services Co.**
- **Blanca Trout, Board Member, Canutillo Independent School District**

The first public meeting with the new board will be on Thursday, February 15, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. MST at:

**USIBWC Headquarters
4191 N. Mesa St.
El Paso, TX 79902**

The meeting will also be held virtually. To join the Microsoft Teams meeting, go to: <https://msteams.link/JYU0>. If you do not have Teams installed on your device the program will work on any internet browser. It may be helpful for you to test connectivity, prior to the meeting by clicking on the “Join” link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning. Or join by phone: +1 872-240-1286 | Conference ID: 270 244 629#

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting. Go to the Rio Grande Citizens Forum page to view them online: <https://www.ibwc.gov/meetings/category/upper-rio-grande/>.

For more information or if you would like to speak during the public comment period, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Leslie Grijalva at leslie.grijalva@ibwc.gov or 915-832-4770 by noon on February 15.

Leslie Grijalva, Public Affairs Specialist for the USIBWC, will provide the new board members and the public with a brief overview of the agency and its history.

David Duran of the USIBWC will present an overview of Commission activities in the Upper Rio Grande region, including sediment control, levee maintenance and other water management responsibilities.

A complete agenda follows.

News Media Contact:

Frank Fisher

915-494-6027

frank.fisher@ibwc.gov

Rio Grande Citizens Forum
Thursday, February 15, 2023, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. MST

USIBWC Headquarters
4191 N. Mesa St.
El Paso, TX 79902
And via [Teams Webinar](#)

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Leslie Grijalva, Public Affairs Specialist
- **Opening Remarks** – Frank Fisher, Director of Public Affairs, USIBWC
- **IBWC Overview & History** – Leslie Grijalva, Public Affairs Specialist
- **Commission Activities in the Upper Rio Grande Region** – David Duran, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC Upper Rio Grande Field Office
- **Public Comment**
- **Board Discussion**
- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information call 915-832-4770 or email leslie.grijalva@ibwc.gov.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 256 674 021 768

Passcode: PhKfSH

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 872-240-1286,,270244629#](#) United States, Chicago

Phone Conference ID: 270 244 629#



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

UNITED STATES SECTION

IBWC History and Activities

Leslie Grijalva

Public Affairs Specialist



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.



EARLY HISTORY OF THE IBWC

- **Convention of Nov. 12, 1884-** Adopted rules about the location of the boundary when the rivers changed course.
- **Convention of March 1, 1889-** Established the International Boundary Commission
- **Focus on maintaining the international boundary**



Boundary Marker #123



CONVENTION OF 1906

- Distribution between Mexico and the U.S. of the waters of the Rio Grande in El Paso- Cd. Juarez
- U.S. to deliver 60 KAF/Yr
- Proportional reduction in deliveries in case of extraordinary drought
- Water stored in Elephant Butte Dam, NM
- Water diverted by Mexico at International Dam



International Dam



CONVENTION OF 1933

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



The meandering river channel was straightened.



1944 WATER TREATY- RIO GRANDE

- Mexico delivers water to the U.S. from Ft. Quitman to Gulf of Mexico
- U.S. receives 1/3 of the waters arriving in the Rio Grande from 6 Mexican tributaries
- Minimum annual average of 350 KAF/yr in cycles of 5 years
- Treaty authorized construction of up to three storage dams on the Rio Grande; only 2 were built



Rio Grande at Fabens Port of Entry,
Fabens, TX



1944 WATER TREATY- COLORADO RIVER

- U.S. to deliver to Mexico a volume of 1.5 MAF/yr
- When there are surplus waters, U.S. to deliver to Mexico a total volume of up to 1.7 MAF/yr
- In extraordinary drought, Mexico reduced in proportion to U.S.



Colorado River at NIB



CHAMIZAL CONVENTION OF 1963

- Relocated the Rio Grande in a concrete-lined channel through central El Paso- Cd. Juarez
- Resolved a century-long boundary dispute



President Adolfo Lopez Mateos Channel



1970 BOUNDARY TREATY

- IBWC to maintain the Rio Grande and Colorado Rivers 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



IBWC STRUCTURE

TREATY OFFICERS

U.S. SECTION

- Commissioner
- Secretary
- 2 Principal Engineers
- Legal Advisor

MEXICAN SECTION

- Commissioner
- Secretary
- 2 Principal Engineers
- Legal Advisor



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

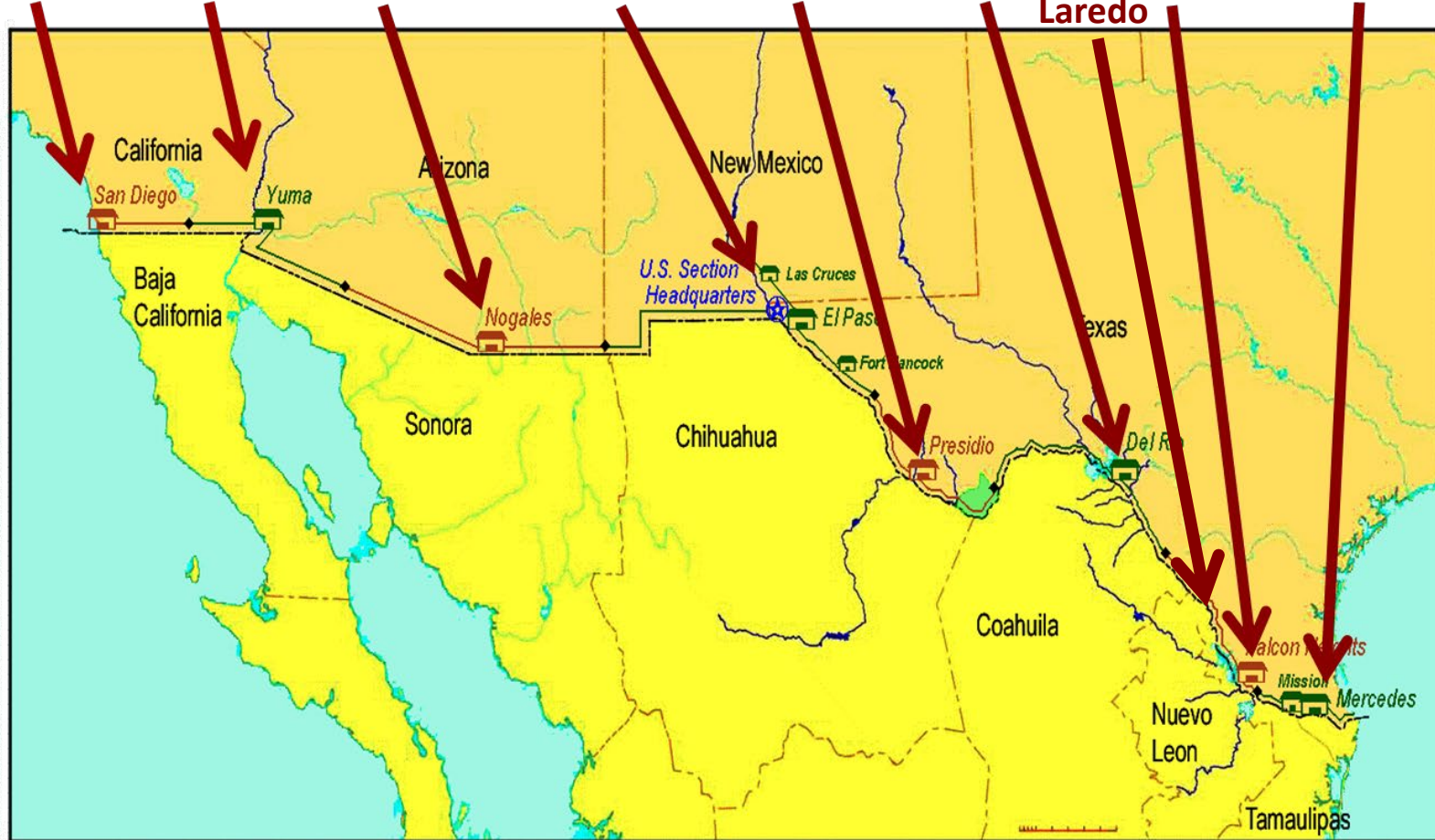


IBWC Commissioners and Secretaries sign Min. 327 on Jan. 28, 2022 in Sonora, Mexico



FIELD OFFICES

San Diego Yuma Nogales Up. Rio Grande Presidio Amistad Falcon L. Rio Grande





BOUNDARY DEMARCATION

- U.S. and Mexican Sections of IBWC jointly determine location of the boundary and demarcate the boundary
- 258 principal monuments along the U.S.- MX border from California to the Texas/New Mexico state line
- Hundreds of intermediate boundary markers
- Boundary demarcation plaques at Ports of Entry/International Bridges
- IBWC responsible for maintaining the monuments



BOUNDARY DEMARCATION



Monument No. 123, Nogales



Boundary demarcation at Tecate Port of Entry



INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES

IBWC maintains 2 international bridges

- Cordova International- Bridge of the Americas (El Paso- Juarez)
- Ft. Hancock TX- El Porvenir, Chih.



Bridge of the Americas, El Paso-Juarez



SANITATION

- 1944 Treaty authorizes Commission to give “preferential attention to the solution of all border sanitation problems”
- 2 international wastewater treatment plants
 - South Bay
 - Nogales
 - Nuevo Laredo (located in MX)



Nogales IWTP



AMISTAD DAM

- Located at Del Rio, TX- Cd. Acuña, Coahuila
- Built in 1969
- Impounded Rio Grande extends for 75 miles, covers 65,000 acres
- Normal conservation capacity of over 3 million acre-feet



Amistad Dam



FALCON DAM

- Located at Falcon Heights, TX-Nueva Cd. Guerrero, Coahuila
- Built in 1954
- Reservoir covers 78,300 acres at conservation capacity
- Normal conservation capacity of 2.6 million acre-feet



Falcon Dam



FLOOD CONTROL



Presidio levee during 2008 flood

- 4 USIBWC Flood Control Projects
 - Tijuana River- San Diego, CA
 - Upper Rio Grande- Southern New Mexico and West Texas
 - Presidio- Big Bend Area of Texas
 - Lower Rio Grande- Near McAllen, Harlingen, Brownsville, TX
- USIBWC maintains flood control levees, tracks flow, operates diversion dams in coordination with Mexico



LOWER RIO GRANDE FLOOD CONTROL



Anzalduas Dam in 2007



Retamal Dam on July 18, 2010



LEVEE CONSTRUCTION





Questions?

Leslie Grijalva

Public Affairs Specialist

915-832-4770

Leslie.Grijalva@ibwc.gov



Upper Rio Grande Field Office

USIBWC Citizens Forum

By: David M. Duran, Regional Manager

February 15, 2024



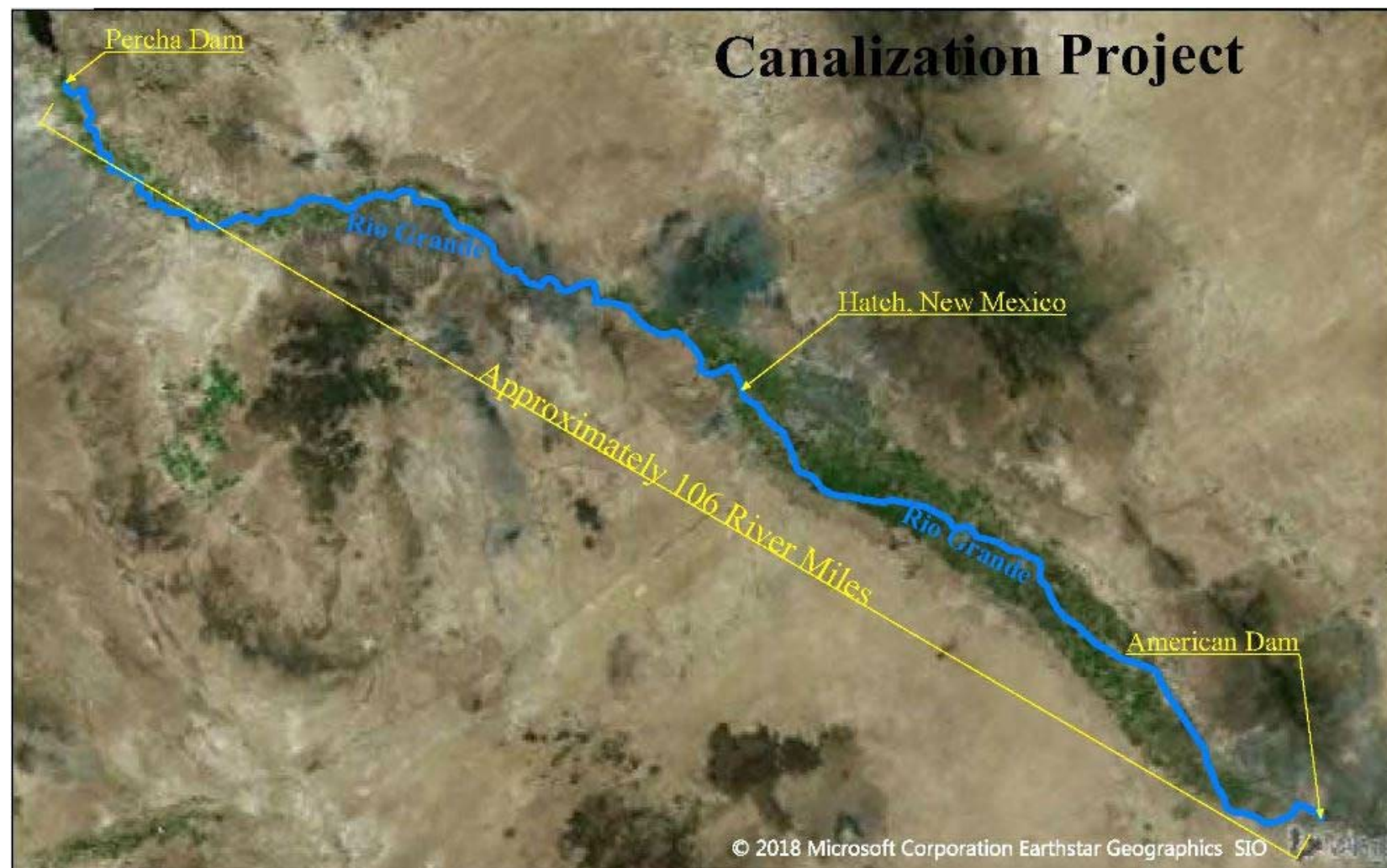
FLOOD CONTROL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Inspect and maintain approx. 220 miles of river and levees from below Percha Dam to Little Box Canyon
- Maintain approx. 4,500 acres of river floodplains
- Maintain approx. 18.5 miles of Canals
- Inspect and maintain 210 drainage and irrigation structures
- Inspect and maintain 5 major sediment control dams.
- Operate and maintain 2 major diversion dams- American and International.
- Inspect, monitor & maintain 5 flow gaging stations throughout the entire project.
- Manage a sediment disposal program available free of charge to residents and stake holders



AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- Water release date is March 8th
- Water arrives at this segment first
- All hands on board this year
- All of our resources from all three field offices are focused on this area this year
- This area to be discussed more in detail...



© 2018 Microsoft Corporation Earthstar Geographics SIO



AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITIES

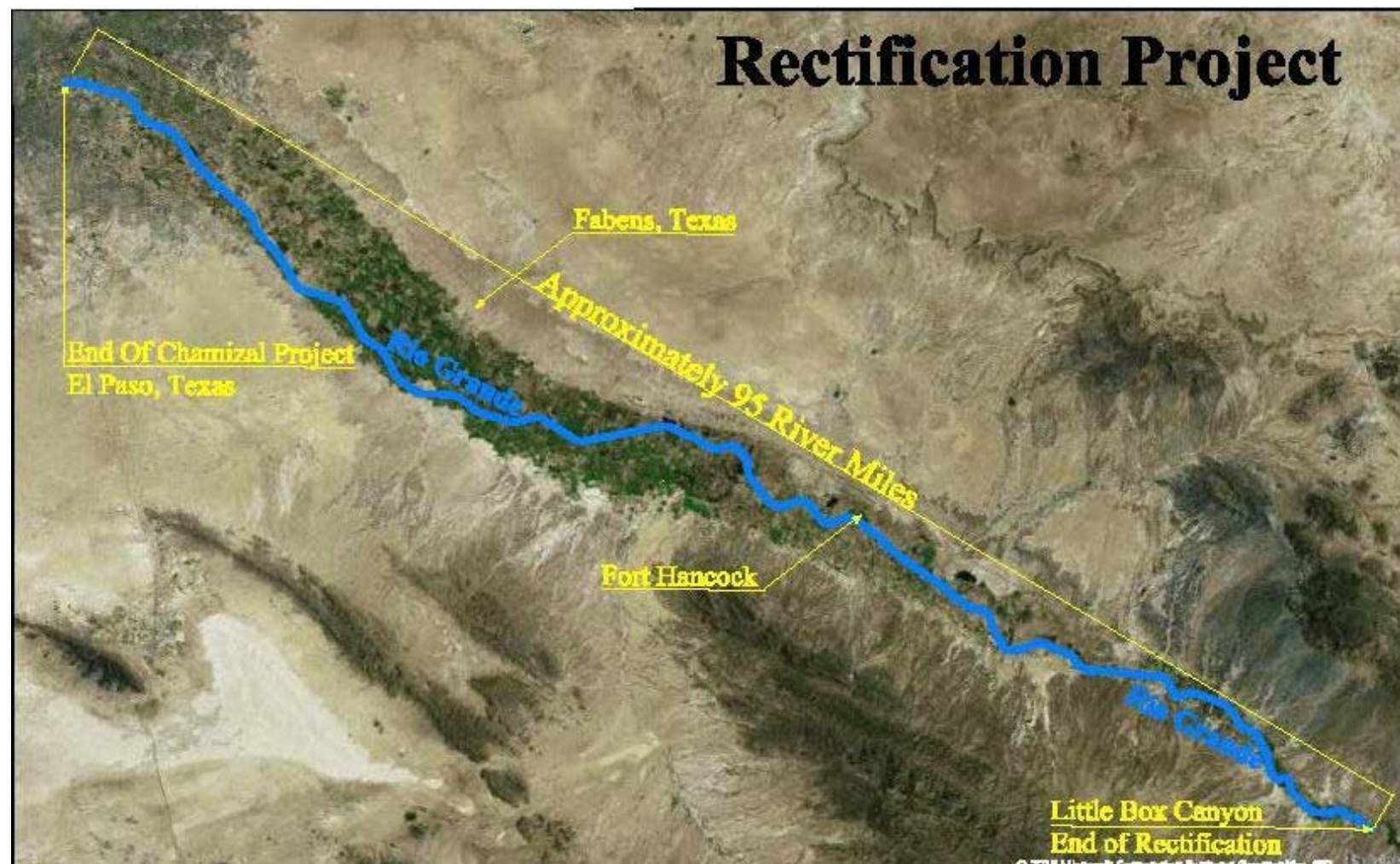
- Currently have restrictive access to these areas
- Texas C-wire
- Last year our staff was able to remove 20,000 cy of sediment from the concrete lined portion of the river.
- Mexico conducted vegetation removal (last year)
- No work is scheduled this year in this segment__





AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide flood protection and stabilizes the international boundary
- This area was a focused on FY23 - removing Approx. 200,000 cy of sediment
- Most of our heavy equipment was dedicated to this area last year
- Sediment removal work to resume in this area after water release date __





FY24 CANALIZATION PROJECTS

- Rincon Arroyo
- Reed Arroyo
- Anthony/Washington Bridge to Vinton
- Canutillo & Borderland Segment
- **187 Bridge at Hatch Area**
- **Downstream of Percha Dam**
- **Hershey Arroyo__**





How are we going to accomplish our goal at
Canalization this year with irrigation season
around the corner?



How are we going to accomplish our goal at
Canalization this year with irrigation season
around the corner?

Additional personnel, overtime, **heavy
equipment**



EQUIPMENT

FY22

\$5.5M

Fuel and Lube Truck
Articulating Dump Truck
Scrapers
Tractors
Crawler Dozer
Loader
Water Truck
Excavator with attachments
Motor Grader
Dump Trucks
Lowboy Trailer

FY23

\$1.7M

Mowers

Wheeled Loader

Dozer Rebuild





SEDIMENT DISPOSAL PROGRAM

- Pre-existing program required a wet signature from prospective customers.
- New program incorporates technology making it more efficient for potential customers. Also, our record keeping.
- Signs, decals, social media, this forum!



* Required

Type of Agreement

1. The Agreement is made between USIBWC and: (select from Individual or Corporate/Business)
*Note: Ranching and Farming fall under Corporate/Business *

☐ An Individual

☐ A Corporate/Business

Next





INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION UNITED STATES SECTION



Questions?