



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
July 25, 2025

USIBWC Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum Public Meeting in Mercedes, Texas, on August 14

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum board will host an in-person and virtual public meeting on:

Thursday, August 14, 2025, from 3-5 p.m. CDT

- **Frank Lazo, USIBWC Dam Operator Supervisor**, will provide updates on operations and maintenance at Anzalduas and Retamal dams, including future projects.
- **Dr. Apurba Borah USIBWC Lead Hydraulic Engineer**, will discuss progress on the Arroyo Colorado Dredging Design Project in Hidalgo and Cameron counties, Texas.

The public meeting will be held in person at:

USIBWC Mercedes Field Office
325 Golf Course Rd.
Mercedes, TX 78570

The public meeting will also be held virtually. [Click here to join the meeting](#). If possible, it may be helpful for you to test connectivity on your own prior to the meeting by clicking on the “Join” link and ensuring your camera and microphone are functioning. Or join by phone: +1 915-320-4718,,140903526# Phone conference ID: 140 903 526#

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting. Go to the USIBWC Citizens Forum page at <https://www.ibwc.gov/citizens-forums-past-meetings/> and look for the Lower Rio Grande Citizen Forum meeting.

If you would like to speak during the public comment period, please sign up by contacting Frankie Pinon at frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov or 915-832-4716 by noon on August 11, 2025.

Media Contact :

Frankie Pinon
frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov
915-832-4716

The USIBWC is dedicated to protecting Americans from exposure to Mexican sewage, maintaining and operating critical infrastructure, and ensuring the U.S. gets its fair share of water. We are committed to working with our federal, state, and local partners and our Mexican colleagues to spearhead these issues.

LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, August 14, 2025, from 3-5 p.m. CDT

USIBWC Mercedes Field Office

325 Golf Course Rd.
Mercedes, TX 78570
And Via Teams

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – USIBWC Citizens Forum Board

Frank Lazo, USIBWC Dam Operator Supervisor: Updates on operations and maintenance at Anzalduas and Retamal dams, including future projects.

- **Dr. Apurba Borah USIBWC Supervisory Civil Engineer:** Progress on the Arroyo Colorado Dredging Design Project in Hidalgo and Cameron counties, Texas.
- **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 915-832-4716 or email frankie.pinon@ibwc.gov

Microsoft Teams meeting

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

Meeting ID: 259 649 519 324 6
Passcode: 576RW37z

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

Or call in (audio only)

+1 915-320-4718,,140903526#

Phone conference ID: 140 903 526#



LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM, MERCEDES, TEXAS
**Arroyo Colorado Dredging Design Project in Hidalgo and
Cameron Counties, Texas**

Apurba Borah, Ph.D., P.E.
Lead Hydraulic Engineer
August 14, 2025



PROJECT GOALS

Purpose:

- Restore the Arroyo Colorado's flood conveyance capacity to equal design capacity of 21,000 cfs.
- Achieve this by removing accumulated sediment up to a depth of 3 feet along 6.3 miles of the Arroyo between Business 77 (Sunshine Strip) and Cemetery Road.

Key Project Goals:

- Perform hydraulic analysis to **confirm conveyance improvements**.
- Design efficient **dredge templates, material disposal, and dewatering strategies**.
- Characterize and quantify **dredge volumes** to develop accurate **cost estimates**.
- Prepare **construction documents** for a competitive bidding process.



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Project Location

~6.3 miles along the Arroyo Colorado near Harlingen, TX

Project Start:

- Business 77(Sunshine Strip)

Project End:

- Cemetery Road



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**Project Kickoff:
May 19, 2025**



Stantec



Geotechnical and Environmental Sciences Consultants

CRAWFORD
CONSULTING SERVICES



Providing binational solutions along the U.S.-Mexico Border



DREDGING DESIGN

Preliminary Design:

- Dewatering Site Design
- Dredge Template
- Disposal Site
- Construction Access and Laydown
- Environmental Review
- Flow Conveyance
- Streambank Stability Risk





DREDGING DESIGN

Full Dredge Project Cycle:

- Mobilization
- Dredging operations
- Sediment transport
- Dewatering and disposal
- Demobilization and site restoration














DESIGN DOCUMENTS

Drawing, Specs, and Cost Estimates:

- Project drawings at all milestones
- Sediment Volume Estimation
- Cost Estimation



DELIVERABLES AND SUBMITTALS

-  Survey Data & Report
-  Sediment Removal Calculations
-  Dewatering & Disposal Locations
-  Opinion of Probable Cost
-  GIS Data
-  Drawings
-  Technical Specifications
-  Revision Log
-  Comment Log

Key Deliverables

- 30% Design Report (11/3/2025)
- 60% Design Report (2/8/2026)
- 90% Design Report (4/5/2026)
- 100% Final Design (6/15/2026)



POST DESIGN SUPPORT

- Bidding Services (12/17/2027 – 6/14/2028)
- Construction Support Services (6/14/2028 – 6/14/2029)



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Project Schedule

	Start	Duration [Days]	End Date
CLIN 1: Project Management			
Kickoff Meeting	5/19/2025	1	5/19/2025
Scoping Meeting	6/16/2025	1	6/16/2025
60% Design Presentation	1/14/2026	1	1/14/2026
Pre-Final Design Presentation	5/3/2026	1	5/3/2026
Site Investigation	5/19/2025	63	7/20/2025
CLIN 2: Survey Pre-Dredging			
Project Control	5/19/2025	21	6/8/2025
Right-of-Way & Boundary Surveys	6/23/2025	112	10/12/2025
Cross-Section & Topographic Surveys	6/23/2025	112	10/12/2025
Subsurface Utility Engineering	6/23/2025	315	5/3/2026
CLIN 3: Dredging Design Plans and Specifications			
Preliminary Design	6/2/2025	168	11/16/2025
Final Design	10/20/2025	239	6/15/2026



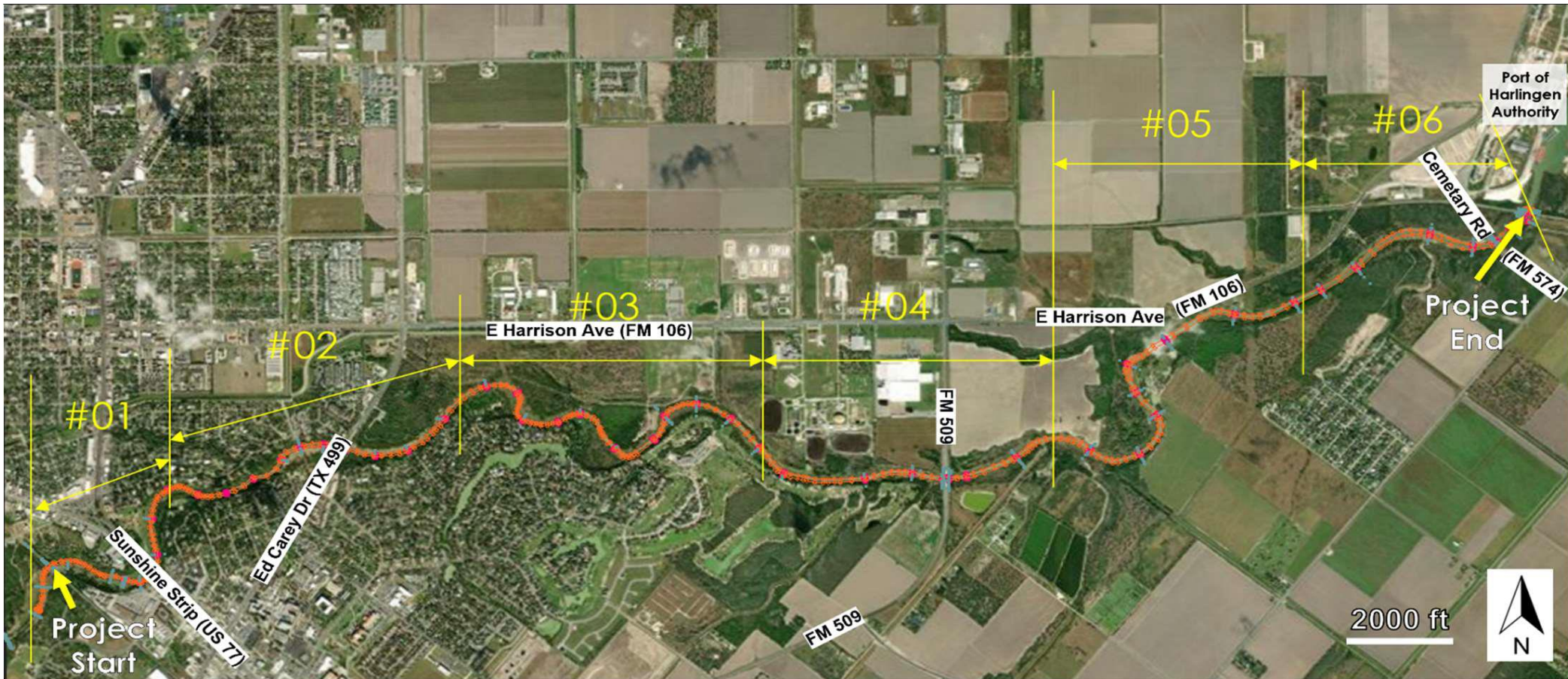
Project Schedule

	Start	Duration [Days]	End Date
CLIN 4: Sediment Volume Estimation			
Sediment Volume Estimation	6/17/2025	308	4/20/2026
CLIN 5: Cost Estimation			
Cost Estimation	12/15/2025	140	5/3/2026
CLIN 6: Report Preparation			
30% Design Report	6/17/2025	140	11/3/2025
60% Design Report	10/20/2025	112	2/8/2026
90% Design Report	1/12/2026	84	4/5/2026
100% Design Report	3/9/2026	99	6/15/2026
CLIN 7: Bidding Services and Post Design Support			
Pre-bid Conference & Site Visit	12/17/2027	181	6/14/2028
Response to bidder questions, addendum generation, review of bids	12/17/2027	181	6/14/2028
CLIN 8: Construction Support Services			
Site Visits & Reporting	6/14/2028	366	6/14/2029
Office Support/Admin	6/14/2028	366	6/14/2029
Progress Meetings	6/14/2028	366	6/14/2029



PROJECT STATUS

Site visit was conducted on July 16 to July 18, 2025.





PROJECT STATUS

During Site visit:

- The boat crew observed site conditions, took photographs (200+), and recorded GPS coordinates of locations of interest.
- Auger sample was collected and archived at 4 sites which consisted of a representative sediment type (e.g., clay, sand).
- Sediment probing data was collected from 143 sites at 33 cross sections along the Arroyo.



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Commonly identified soft clayey (<25% clay Fraction) sand (fine to medium-grained), dredge able material.

Sample shown is 06-25 AC 06A from the Western (Upstream) end of Segment 2



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Eroding bluff of cut bank, bluff height is 20-25 feet (Segment 5)



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Failed vinyl sheet pile
bulkhead along the
bank of the Arroyo in
Segment 2



QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



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Second Presentation



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

LOWER RIO GRANDE FIELD OFFICE

Franklin Lazo, Anzalduas & Retamal Supervisor
Juan F. Uribe, RM

August 14, 2025



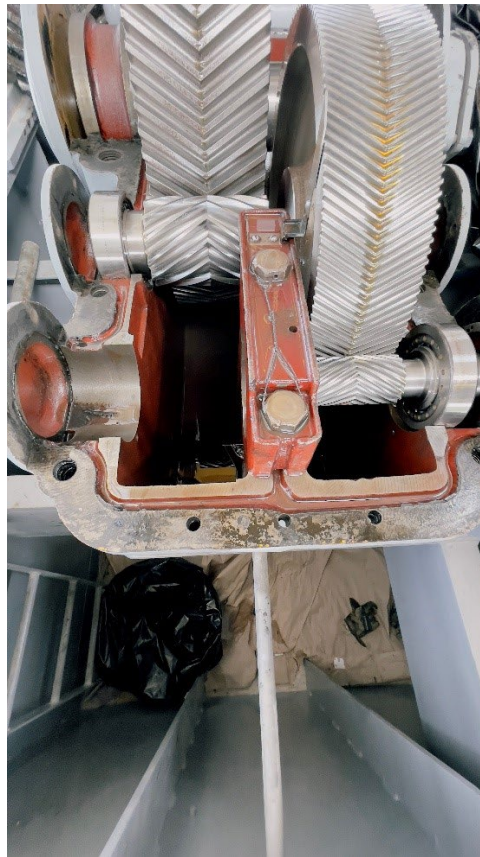
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Routine Maintenance and Inspections at Anzalduas Dam



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Gear Box Inspection and Maintenance





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Embankment Inspection, Gate Operability Inspection, & Bank Brush Removal





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Maintenance of Four (4) gates at Anzalduas Dam



Maintenance of Four (4) gates at Anzalduas Dam



Cost = \$133,000

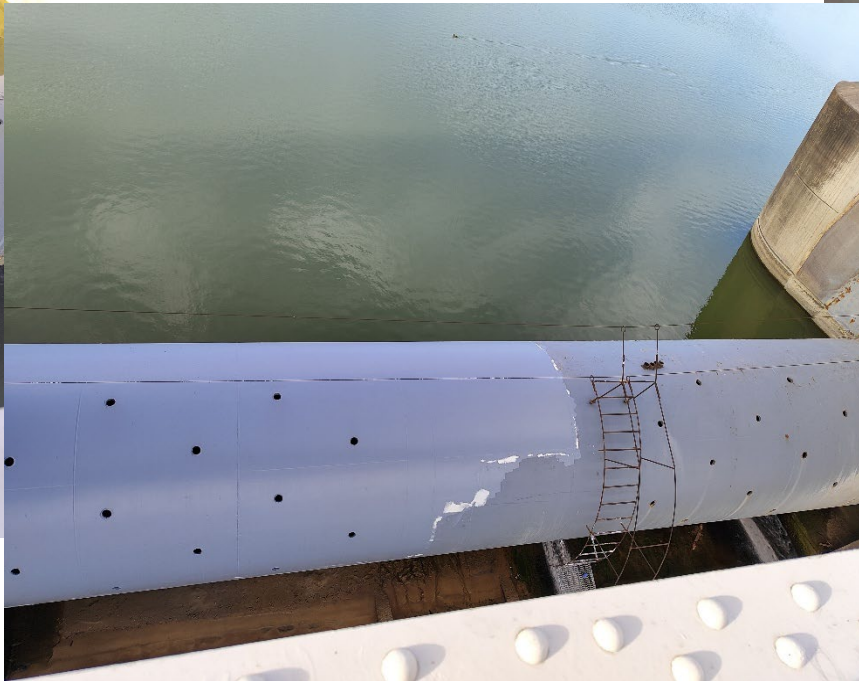
Period of Performance: OCT 2023 to DEC 2024

Maintenance Performed:

- Sandblasting and Painting of exposed outer shell for four (4) gates.
- Pressure washing and painting of the interior for four (4) gates.
- Pressure washing, painting and greasing of lifting gear mechanism for four (4) gates.
- Refurbishing and repair of interior of four (4) gates
- Refurbishing of wingwalls of four (4) gates.



Maintenance of Four (4) gates at Anzalduas Dam



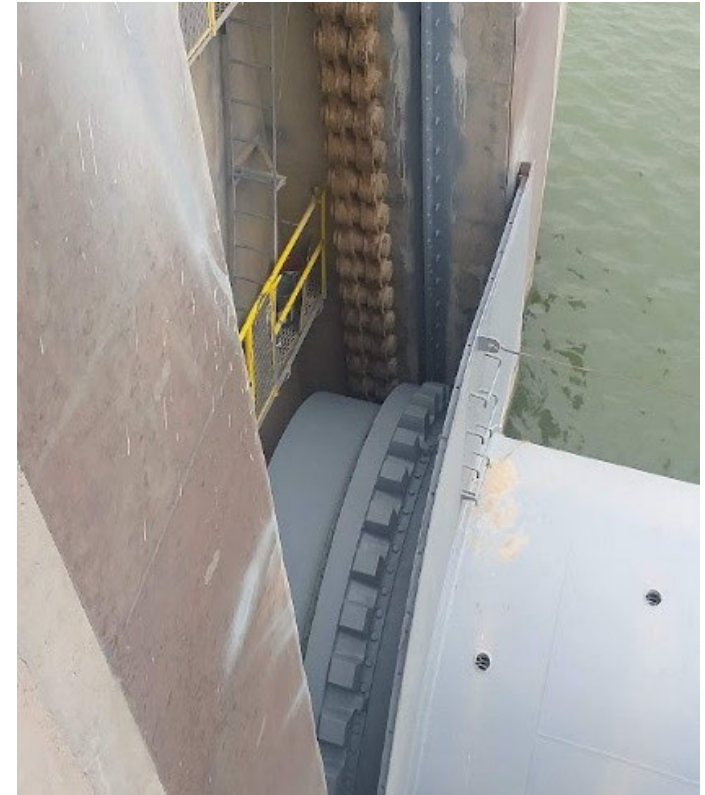
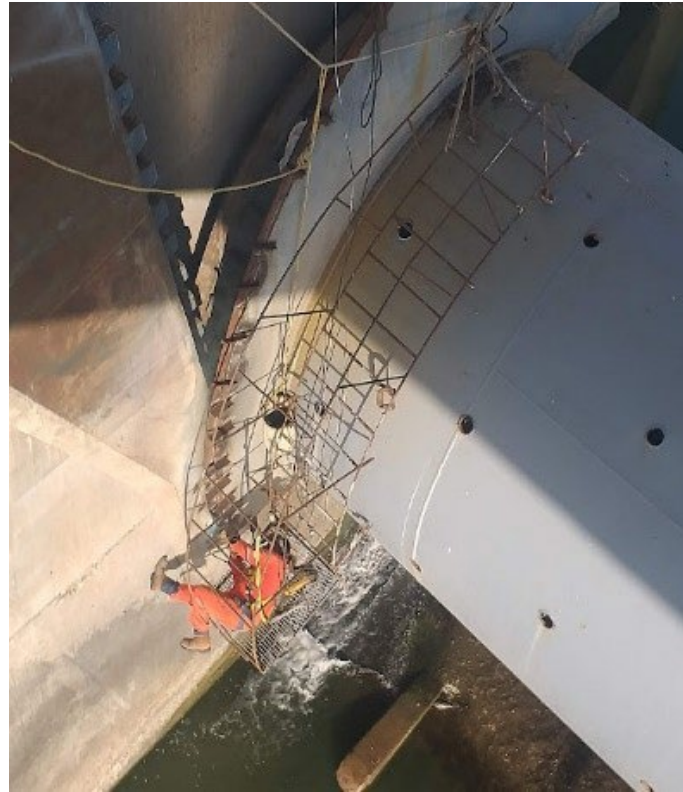


Maintenance of Four (4) gates at Anzalduas Dam





Maintenance of Four (4) gates at Anzalduas Dam



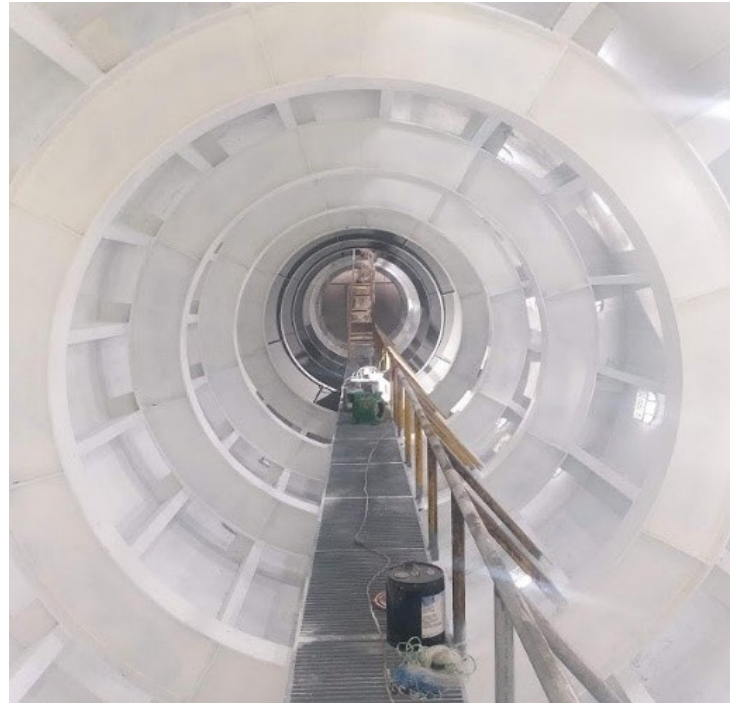


Maintenance of Four (4) gates at Anzalduas Dam





Maintenance of Four (4) gates at Anzalduas Dam





Maintenance of Four (4) gates at Anzalduas Dam





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Routine Maintenance at Retamal Dam



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Maintenance of Gate Gear Boxes





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Retamal Dam Center Gate Project



Rehabilitation & Modernization of Lifting System for Central Gate



Cost = ~\$1,960,000, Cost shared between U.S. and Mexican Sections.

Period of Performance: NOV 2024 to present

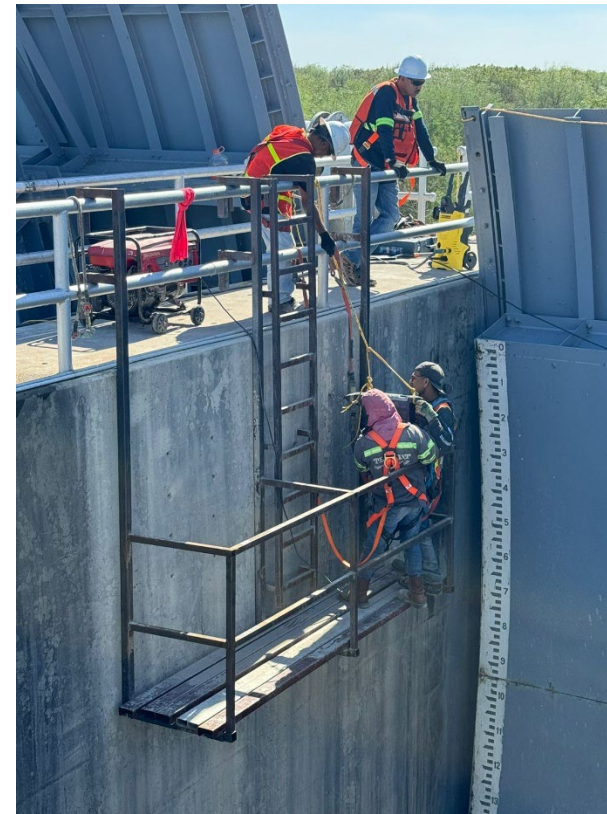
Work to be Performed:

- Installation of new hydraulic lifting system.
- Installation of new control panel
- Replacing old conduit & wire from control panel to all gates with new conduit & wire to include back up power from both countries.
- Removal of counterweight and pulley system.



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Design, Fabrication and Installation of supports for the hydraulic cylinders





Design, Fabrication and Installation of gate anchor supports for the hydraulic cylinders





Hydraulic Cylinders





Hydraulic Cylinders





Upgrade of Electrical Lines





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Questions



QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



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