

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

MINUTE NO. 144

Ciudad Juárez, Chih.,  
June 14, 1934.

Plans of final location of rectified channel of the Rio Grande in the El Paso-Juarez Valley.

The Commission met at the offices of the Mexican Section at Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., June 14, 1934, to receive the Report of the Consulting Engineers, dated May 18, 1934, and the respective maps, on the final location of the rectified channel of the Rio Grande in the El Paso-Juarez Valley.

The Commission examined carefully the report and maps in question, which report and maps were approved and are attached to this Minute to form a part thereof. The Commission also reviewed the provisions contained in the Convention of February 1, 1933, for the rectification of the Rio Grande in the El Paso-Juarez Valley, and in the annexes thereto, comprising Minute No. 129 of the Commission and the Report of the Consulting Engineers attached to such Minute.

In order to comply with the provisions of Article V of the Convention of 1933, the Commission attaches to this Minute the maps, in fourteen sheets, showing the final location of the route of the rectified channel of the Rio Grande in the El Paso-Juarez Valley, from the starting point of the works described in Article I of the Convention of 1933, which is south of Monument No. 15 of the boundary polygon of Cordova Island, at the intersection of the present channel of the river with the route of rectification, to the upper end of San Elizario Island and continuing from the lower end of said San Elizario Island to the end of the project at Box Canyon.

There having been left for later disposition the matter of location of the rectified channel along the San Elizario Island, the Commission has modified slightly in the lower part of the Valley the preliminary route which appears on the map, Exhibit No. 2 of

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COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LIMITES

ENTRE MÉXICO Y LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

ACTA NUM. 144.

Cd. Juárez, Chih., a  
14 de junio de 1934.

Planos de localización definitiva del cauce rectificado del río Bravo en el Valle de Juárez-El Paso.

La Comisión se reunió en las Oficinas de la Sección Mexicana, en Ciudad Juárez, Chih., a las 10 horas del 14 de junio de 1934, para recibir el Informe de los Ingenieros Consultores, fechado el 18 de mayo de 1934, y los planos respectivos sobre la localización definitiva del cauce rectificado del río Bravo en el Valle de Juárez-El Paso.

La Comisión examinó cuidadosamente el informe y los planos de que se trata, documentos que fueron aprobados y se agregan a esta Acta para que formen parte de ella. La Comisión revisó igualmente las disposiciones contenidas en la Convención del 1º de febrero de 1933 para la rectificación del río Bravo en el valle de Juárez-El Paso, y en los anexos a ella, constituidos por el Acta No 129 de la propia Comisión y el Informe de los Ingenieros Consultores agregado a dicha Acta.

Para cumplir con las disposiciones del Artículo V de la Convención de 1933, la Comisión acompaña a la presente Acta los planos, en 14 hojas, que muestran la localización definitiva del trazo del cauce rectificado del río Bravo en el valle de Juárez-El Paso, desde el punto inicial de las obras descrito en el Artículo I de la Convención de 1933, que queda al Sur del Monumento No 15 del polígono limítrofe de la Isla de Córdoba, en la intersección del cauce actual del río con el trazo de la rectificación, hasta el extremo superior de la Isla de San Elizario y continuando desde el extremo inferior de la dicha Isla de San Elizario hasta el fin del proyecto en el cañon de Cajoncitos (Box).

Estando pendiente la localización del cauce rectificado dentro de la Isla de San Elizario, la Comisión ha modificado ligeramente en la parte baja del valle, el trazo preliminar que aparece en el plano anexo No 2 del Acta No 129, con el fin de lograr la

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Minute No. 129, for the purpose of achieving complete equalization of areas segregated from each country independently of the said San Elizario Island. On the index map of those which are attached is shown a tabulation of the areas of the tracts segregated from each country. These maps and the descriptions in the attached report of the Consulting Engineers show that there exists a strict superficial compensation in total of the areas segregated from each country, as provided by Article V of the Convention of 1933 and following the procedure fixed in Article VI of the said Convention for the determination of such areas taking the axis of the rectified channel as the international boundary line for the sole purpose of such equalization of areas.

The Commission considers these maps, independently of San Elizario Island, as those of the final route of the rectified channel of the Rio Grande in the El Paso-Juarez Valley in conformity with the Convention of 1933. Slight modifications in the route now designated may be made which the Commission may later agree upon as necessary in the execution of the works and in conformity with the provisions of Minute No. 129 and the requisites established in the said Convention.

The meeting then adjourned.

*L. M. Lawson*

Commissioner of the United States.

*Manuel Gutierrez*

Commissioner of Mexico.

*H. S. Dennis*  
Acting Secretary of the United States Section.

*José Hernández*  
Secretary of the Mexican Section.

la compensación total de las áreas segregadas de cada país, independientemente de la citada Isla de San Elizario. En el plano índice de los que se anexan, figura la tabulación de las áreas de las parcelas segregadas de cada país. Estos planos y las descripciones del Informe adjunto de los Ingenieros Consultores muestran que existe una estricta compensación superficial en el total de las áreas segregadas de cada país, tal como dispone el Artículo V de la Convención de 1933, y siguiéndose el procedimiento fijado en el Artículo VI de la misma Convención para la determinación de dichas áreas considerando el eje del cauce rectificado como línea divisoria internacional, únicamente para el citado objeto de compensación de áreas.

La Comisión considera estos planos, independientemente de la Isla de San Elizario, como los del trazo definitivo del cauce rectificado del río Bravo en el valle de Juárez-El Paso, de conformidad con la Convención de 1933. Este trazo queda sujeto a ligeras modificaciones que acuerde posteriormente la Comisión por necesidades en la ejecución de las obras, y de conformidad con lo previsto en el Acta No 129, y con sujeción a los requisitos establecidos en dicha Convención.

Se levantó la sesión.

*Manuel Gutierrez*

Comisionado de México.

*L. M. Lawson*

Comisionado de los Estados Unidos.

*José Hernández*  
Secretario de la Sección Mexicana.

*H. S. Dennis*  
Secretario Interino de la Sección de los Estados Unidos.

El Paso, Texas  
May 18, 1934

JOINT REPORT OF THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS,  
submitting maps of the agreed on alignment  
of the rectified river channel under the  
Convention of February 1, 1933.

The Honorable Commissioners,

International Boundary Commission,

United States and Mexico,

El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua.

Sirs:

Pursuant to your instructions and in conformance with the provisions of the Convention of February 1, 1933, for the rectification of the Rio Grande in the El Paso-Juarez Valley, we have prepared a series of maps which depict the agreed on alignment of the axis of the rectified river channel from the point of beginning, opposite Cordova Island as defined by the Convention, to the upper end of San Elizario Island, and from the lower end of San Elizario Island to the lower end of the project at Box Canyon.

These maps in addition to the axis line of the rectified channel also show the present river channel which is the boundary line between the points named and the location of the center of the proposed pilot channel, including the levees to be constructed to either side thereof. At the lower end of the project levees will not be constructed, but the spoil, where there is channel excavation, will be deposited as shown by the broken lines.

The maps have been prepared in duplicate sets, one set in Spanish and one set in English. Each set is made up of fourteen tracings of which one is an index map (approximate scale 1:100,000) and thirteen are detail

maps (scale 1:6000, approximate size 30" x 72").

Upon each of the detail maps there appears a table which gives, for both the axis line of the rectified channel and the centerline of the pilot channel, the various courses and distances, curve functions and coordinates by which either line may be described and tied into the triangulation system, and the reference points established for the El Paso-Juarez Valley by the International Boundary Commission.

Upon the index map there appears a table of the areas of the parcels segregated from either country by the axis of the rectified channel. It will be noted that the total area of all the parcels segregated from Mexico balances with the total area of all the parcels segregated from the United States, and that the total area segregated from either country is 1767.41 hectares. In this table the various parcels have been numbered and on the detail maps each parcel has been indicated by its identifying number.

#### Basis of the Maps.

The detail maps were traced from plane table sheets developed by field surveys made during the summer of 1933. The plane table surveys were controlled by the previously located pilot channel and levee centerlines. The data taken with the plane table included a detail survey of the present river channel.

#### Axis Line of the Rectified Channel

To conform to the requirements of Article VI of the Convention of 1933, we have placed upon the maps a line representing the axis of the rectified channel. This is shown by a solid red line and is located, as near as may be, midway between the levee locations.

In determining the position of the axis line we have been guided by similar rules to those set out in the Joint Journal of December 6, 1907, for the determination of the position of the boundary line, and have used the following cases which fit all the conditions met with:

1. Where the two levees are symmetrical and parallel. Here the axis line has been placed exactly midway between the levee locations.
2. Where one of the levees is regular and the other levee is irregular. Here the axis line has been placed parallel to and the same distance from the regular levee as in the preceding case.
3. Where both levees are irregular. Here the axis has been placed approximately midway between the levees.
4. Where levees are not planned. Here the axis line follows and coincides with the center line of the pilot channel.

From Cordova Island to the upper end of San Elizario Island and at certain other places the axis of the rectified channel and the centerline of the pilot channel coincide.

#### Present Boundary Line.

The present boundary line is shown upon the maps by an undulating curved dashed line following the center of the normal channel of the river as prescribed by the Treaty of 1884 and the Joint Journal of December 6, 1907.

#### Parcels.

The areas of the parcels lying between the axis of the rectified channel and the present boundary line were determined by measuring such area with a planimeter. These results were checked by repeated planimeterings until two values were reached which checked each other within one per cent, and the areas shown in the tables are the average of the two values so checked. The total of the areas segregated from Mexico,

lying on the northerly side of the axis line, exactly balances the total of the areas segregated from the United States, lying on the southerly side of the axis line.

Recommendations.

In our opinion, this location fully meets all the requirements of the Convention of February 1, 1933, and we respectfully recommend the adoption of these maps which are submitted herewith as the official maps of the Rio Grande Rectification Project for the part of the river covered thereon.

Respectfully submitted.

*W. C. Airwood*

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Consulting Engineer,  
United States Section.

*J. Bustamante*

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Consulting Engineer,  
Mexican Section.