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News Flash

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Office of Public Affairs

USIBWC ENTERPRISE ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SETTING A FAST PACE

Creating an asset management system basically from scratch for the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission has meant lots of travel, learning, and shaking hands for the squad entrusted with the job.

Besides visiting all the field offices, the Enterprise Asset Management Team (EAMT) has spent time getting advice from experts at other agencies, including Central Arizona Water Conservation District’s award-winning asset management program at its Central Arizona Project in Phoenix.



EAMT members Engineer (and team leader) Betsabe Diaz and Safety and Occupational Health Manager Mario Castro, along with Supervisory Logistics Management Specialist Helder Martinez, visited Central Arizona Water Conservation District’s Central Arizona Project in Phoenix.

accomplishments as well as the challenges they had to face,” said Betsabe Diaz, the USIBWC’s Enterprise Asset Management Program (EAMP) Engineer.

An asset management system, along with an ongoing manpower study and a capital investment plan, are Commissioner Dr. Maria-Elena Giner’s key initiatives to guarantee long-lasting improvements at the USIBWC.

Asset management activities began in June 2023 with team members visiting field offices to introduce the program and request support to perform a sheet-to-sheet inventory revision for the Pilot Project Programs (Permanent Operating Equipment and Gaging Stations).

Besides the Central Arizona Project, the EAMT has spent a couple days at El Paso Water to learn about the launching of their software, their inventory, work order and maintenance processes, labeling, and identification procedures.

In January 2024, a kickoff meeting was held at USIBWC Headquarters to announce the Asset Management Plan’s Phase 1 and introduce contractor LH&J/Arcadis.

This contract will assist in the design, development, and implementation of an enterprise asset

“They shared with us how this has been a long but worthwhile journey and mentioned their

management system along the U.S.-Mexico border in the United States.



EAMT members, along with Budget and GIS staff, visited with Upper Rio Grande Field Office personnel in Las Cruces NM and Fort Hancock TX.

Phase I includes the start-up, testing, and implementation of an EAM software system, recommendations to our USIBWC pilot asset management project, which includes permanent operating equipment and gaging stations, and development of a wastewater treatment asset management plan for the agency’s two plants in San Ysidro, California, and Nogales Arizona,

Commissioner Giner said the goal is to reduce downtime, boost effectiveness, and lower work costs. It also should help improve the budget process and show accountability for the use of funds needed to improve current operations and maintenance.

Future phases, subject to availability of funds and satisfactory performance, will include the following USIBWC assets:

Phase 2: Storage Dams and Hydropower Plants

Phase 3: Diversion Dams and Levees

Phase 4: Bridges, Buildings, and Monuments.

Ramon Macias III, Principal Engineer, Engineering Department, and Vivian Gonzales,

Master Planning Division Supervisor, are heading the EAMP effort. Currently, its members are Engineer Diaz (Lead), Safety Manager Mario Castro, and Contracting Officer Philip Johnson.

Once the contractor completes the strategic roadmap in late August of this year, we will identify new roles and responsibilities that will fall under this new program.

The team’s hard work and efforts are starting to get attention, even from south of the border, where the USIBWC’s Mexican counterparts have expressed interest in learning more.

“CILA would like to mimic our procedures, so they have requested to shadow our steps so they can begin their own program,” Engineer Diaz says.



Commissioner Giner told staff during the Jan. 16 kickoff meeting that members of Congress frequently ask her how much funding her agency needs. She has had a hard time giving them an exact number.

“With this, we will be able to have a basis of science that will help us determine what the budget’s needs are,” she said.