



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
June 28, 2024

USIBWC to Welcome New Colorado River Citizens Forum Board at Yuma Public Meeting

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is pleased to announce it will host an in-person and virtual public meeting to welcome the new Colorado River Citizens Forum board on Tuesday, **July 9, 2024, from 4–6 p.m. MST.**

Frank Fisher, Public Affairs Chief for the USIBWC, will provide an overview of the agency and its history. He will also give a presentation about the Citizens Forum program.

Anna Morales, Area Operations Manager for the USIBWC Yuma Field Office, will give an overview of field office activities.

The public meeting will be held in person at:

Yuma City Hall, Room 190
One City Plaza
Yuma, AZ 85364

The 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: 872-240-1286, phone conference ID: 941-431-437#.

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting. Go to the Colorado River Citizens Forum page <https://www.ibwc.gov/meetings/category/colorado-river/>, and look for the links for the 7/9/2024 meeting.

If you would like to speak during the public comment period, please sign up ahead of time by contacting Frank Fisher at frank.fisher@ibwc.gov or 915-494-6027 by noon on July 7, 2024.

News Media Contact:

Frank Fisher
frank.fisher@ibwc.gov
915-494-6027

USIBWC COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM
Tuesday, JULY 9, 4-6 p.m. MST
Yuma City Hall, Room 190
1 City Plaza
Yuma, AZ 85364
And via Teams Webinar

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Frank Fisher, Director of Public Affairs, USIBWC
- **IBWC & Citizens Forum Program Overview & History** – Frank Fisher
- **Yuma Field Office Activities** – Anna Morales, Area Operations Manager for the Yuma Field Office, USIBWC
- **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 915-494-6027 or email frank.fisher@ibwc.gov.

Microsoft Teams meeting

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

Meeting ID: 287 983 311 255

Passcode: abhHV6

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

Or call in (audio only)

+1-872-240-1286, ID: 941-431-437# United States, Chicago



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

UNITED STATES SECTION

IBWC Projects and Citizens Forum

Frank Fisher

Public Affairs Chief

Colorado River Citizens Forum: July 9, 2024



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.





OVERVIEW FACT SHEET

The IBWC is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico.

- ✓ **Flood Control:** Maintain more than 500 miles of levees, 700 hydraulic structures, 100 gaging stations, and 20,000 acres of floodplain.
- ✓ **Water Delivery:** Ensure compliance with 1906 Convention and 1944 Water Treaty for the Rio Grande and Colorado River.
- ✓ **Dams and Hydroelectric Power Plants:** Manage two international dams (Falcon and Amistad) with hydroelectric power plants and 5 diversion dams.
- ✓ **Sanitation:** Three international wastewater treatment plants- SBIWTP, NIWTP, NLIWTP.
- ✓ **International Bridges and Boundary Demarcation:** Maintain two ports of entry and almost 800 monuments, markers, and buoys that demarcate the U.S.-Mexico border.

SOME MAJOR ONGOING USIBWC PROJECTS:

- South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Diego
- Colorado River Conservation Projects in partnership with Reclamation (Minute 323 and Minute 330)
- Upgrade to Nogales Wastewater Treatment Plant and completion of IOI
- Rio Grande Binational Policy and Hydrology Work Groups for water management policies (Minute 325)
- Partner with TCEQ on the Texas Clean Rivers Program for the Rio Grande Basin
- Upper Rio Grande: Sunland Park Levee Construction and American Canal Lower Reach
- Lower Rio Grande: Edinburg Levee Construction and Arroyo Colorado Sediment Removal
- Amistad Dam Repairs
- Heavy Equipment Replacement in all offices
- Mercedes, TX Field Office Administrative Building
- Rio Grande and Floodways: Hydraulic Modeling, Sediment Accumulation and Flow Capacity Analysis

USIBWC STAFFING AND BUDGET AT 12 OFFICES IN THE BORDER REGION AND WASHINGTON D.C.:

- 300 authorized positions
- 1/3 of employees at or near retirement age
- FY24 operations appropriation: \$64.8M
- FY24 construction appropriation: \$156M.
- FY 2010 to 2022 average construction budget was \$31M

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

- Estimated deferred maintenance: \$11M per year
- Extraordinary deferred maintenance: \$487M mostly related to sediment accumulation.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT:

- Equipment replacement in all field offices \$60M, proposed as a 5-year program.
- Facilities Renovation \$31M is needed for 61 facilities.

FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM:

Rio Grande Flood Control Program: \$980M is needed for 234 miles of levees

- High Priority - \$91M needed for 14 miles of levees and levee gap repairs for FEMA certification and flood control protection in urbanized areas and where high levee failure risks exist.
- Medium Priority – \$73M needed for 16 miles of levees and levee gaps repairs based on value/benefit, complexity/constraints, and risk/safety.

Tijuana River Levee Rehabilitation:

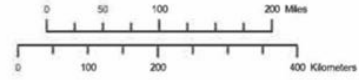
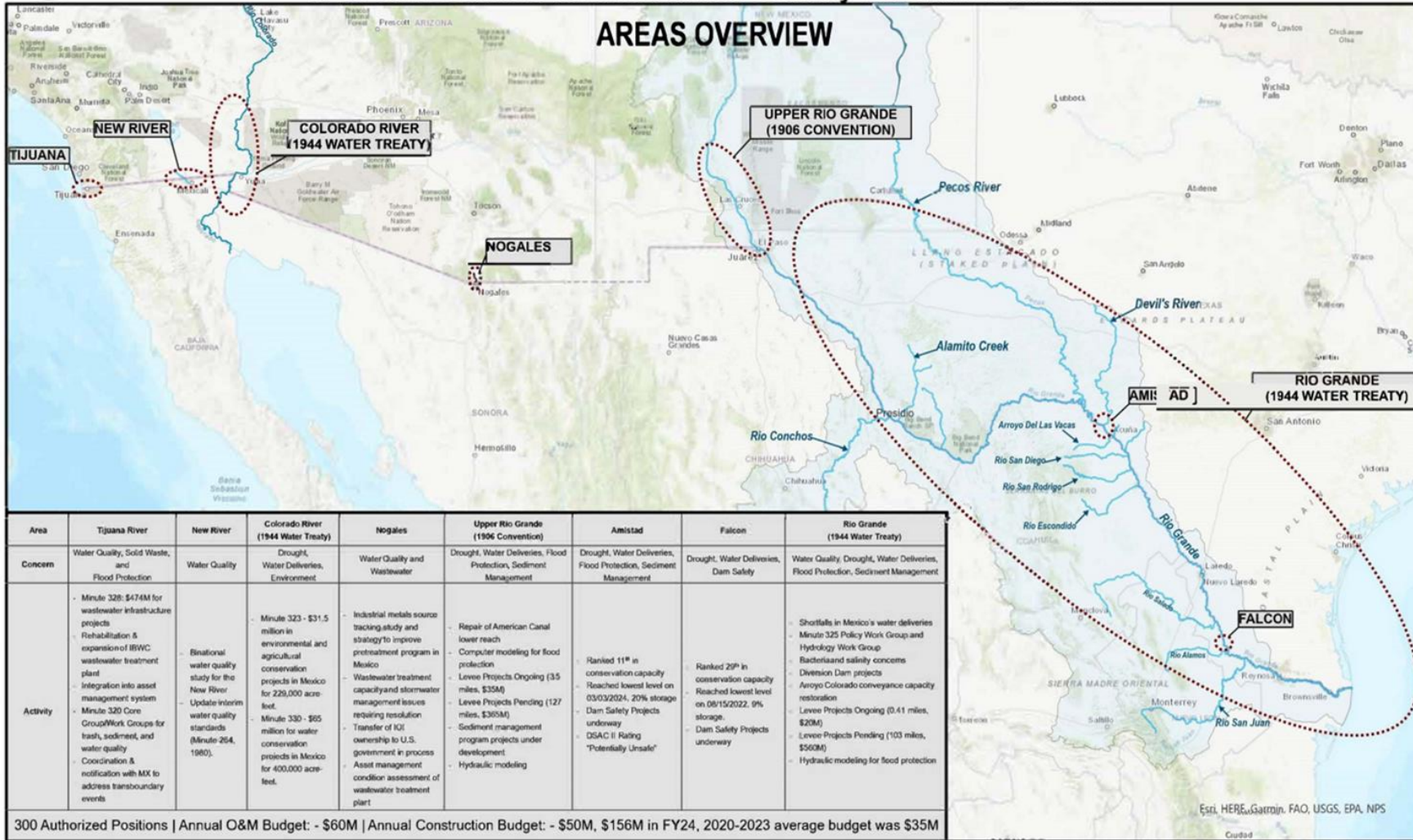
- High Priority – \$100M is needed for 4 miles of levee construction to comply with FEMA certification and sediment removal; \$5M needed for O&M.

OTHER UNFUNDED CRITICAL CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Amistad Dam Seepage Correction \$80 - \$276M (US share estimated at \$45-\$155M)
- American Canal Middle Reach \$155 - \$174M
- Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant capital improvements \$10 - \$20M (A condition assessment study is underway. It is likely the costs will greatly increase.)
- South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion and rehabilitation \$200M



Strategic Priorities and Pending Projects of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission



GIS Section
Master Planning Office
International Boundary and Water Commission
US Section
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CITIZENS FORUM PROGRAM

USIBWC established the Rio Grande Citizens Forum Board in 1999 at El Paso, TX-Las Cruces, NM

Program expanded in early 2000s:

- San Diego
 - Colorado River
 - Southeast Arizona
 - Upper Rio Grande
 - Lower Rio Grande
-
- Mexican Section established Citizens Forum in 2014.





CITIZENS FORUM PROGRAM

CF Purpose: To promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission activities and related projects.

Offers a means to share information with the public and for groups to share information with USIBWC.

Diversity of viewpoints is welcome.

CF is not a federal advisory committee.





CITIZENS FORUM PROGRAM

Board Duties:

- Term is 2 years
- Serve as volunteers; no reimbursement
- Attend all meetings
- Select Co-Chair (help run the meetings)
- Review and comment on projects and documents
- Discuss Commission activities and projects
- Bring issues to attention of the USIBWC
- Offer to give presentations or help organize them





Questions?

Frank Fisher
Public Affairs Chief
915-494-6027
frank.fisher@ibwc.gov

Press Release Sign Up

To sign up for future press releases and announcements, scan the QR code.





Yuma Field Office

USIBWC Citizens Forum

By: Anna Morales, Area Operations Manager

July 9, 2024



RESPONSIBILITIES

- Office coordinates with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation the annual delivery of the 1944 Colorado River treaty waters to Mexico
- Monitor, collect, process and account the deliveries to Mexico to ensure Treaty compliance
- Monitor the condition of the Wellton-Mohawk Bypass Drain in Mexico and coordinate the maintenance of the system with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and CILA
- Operate and maintain 14 river stations along the Colorado River in the U.S., 1 in Mexico and 1 cableway
- Monitor the salinity to comply with Treaty agreements
- Monitor the water quality of New River at the International Boundary in Calexico, CA
- Provide support for boundary maintenance for 3 LPOE and 38 monuments (No. 168 to 204a), Hydro Tech support for the Tijuana River gage, work groups and environmental projects.

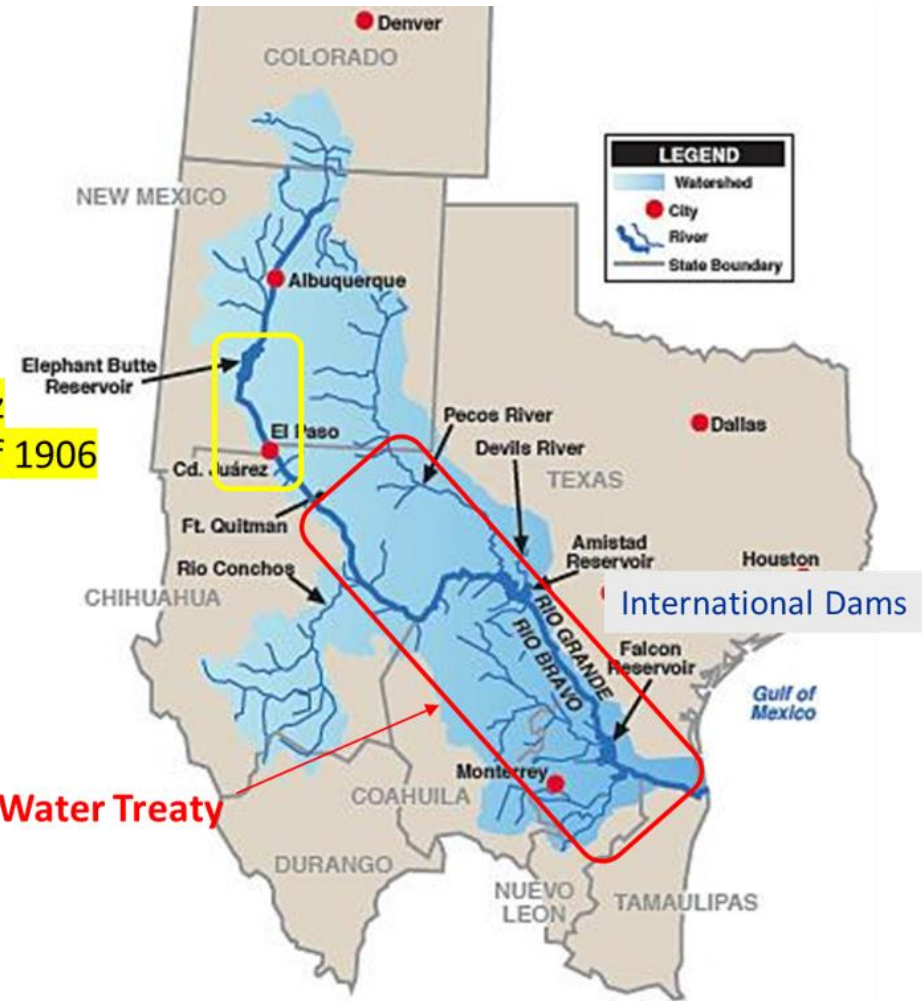


Water Deliveries – 3 Basins, 2 Treaties, many challenges



El Paso-Juarez
Convention of 1906

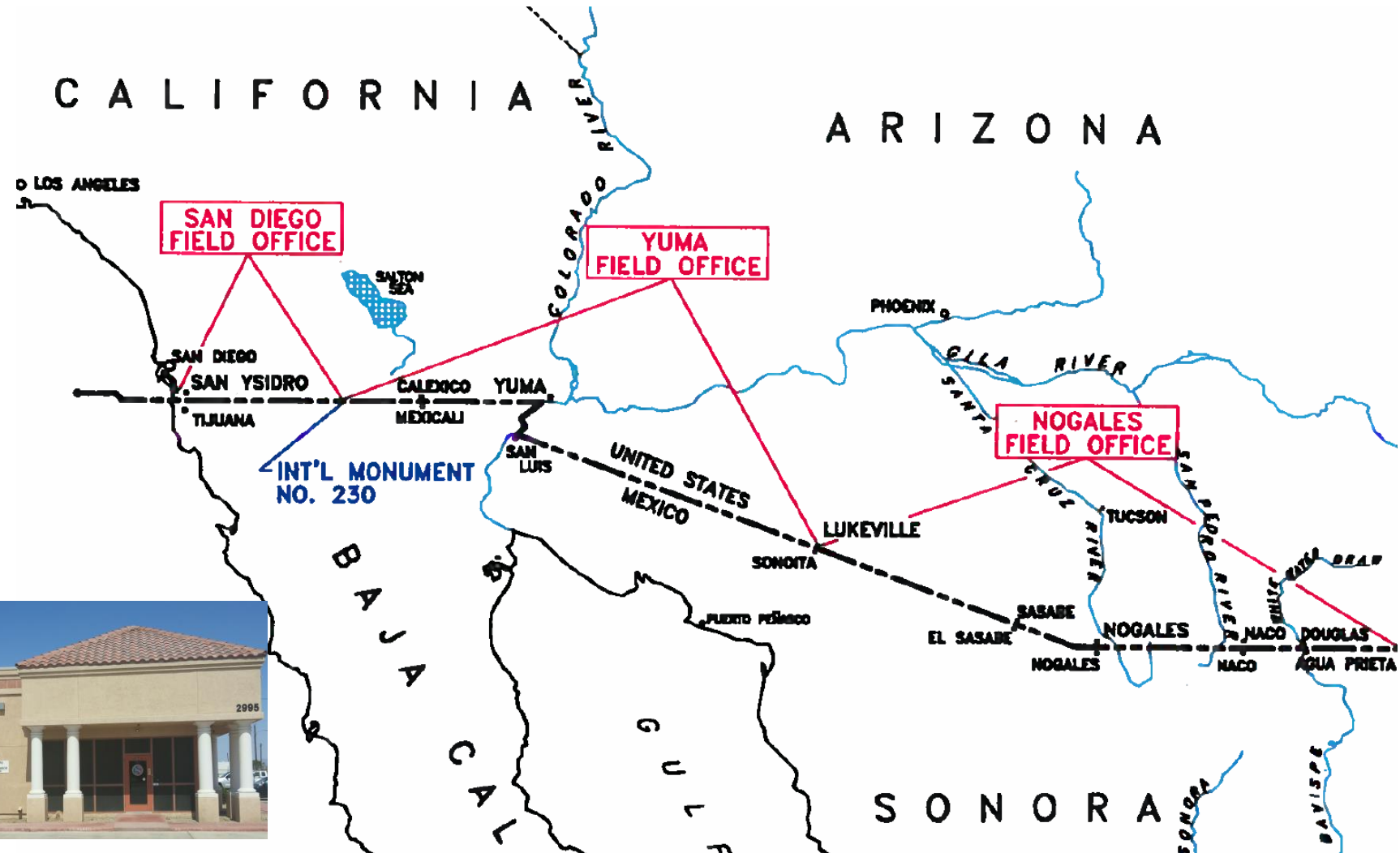
1944 Water Treaty





AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- Jurisdiction is from the International Monument No. 230 to the Lukeville port of entry.
- 24 Mile reach of the Colorado River (Yuma, Az to San Luis, AZ)
- Field office is located at 2995 S. Pacific Ave, Yuma, AZ
- Staff of 5 Employees





1944 Water Treaty - Colorado River

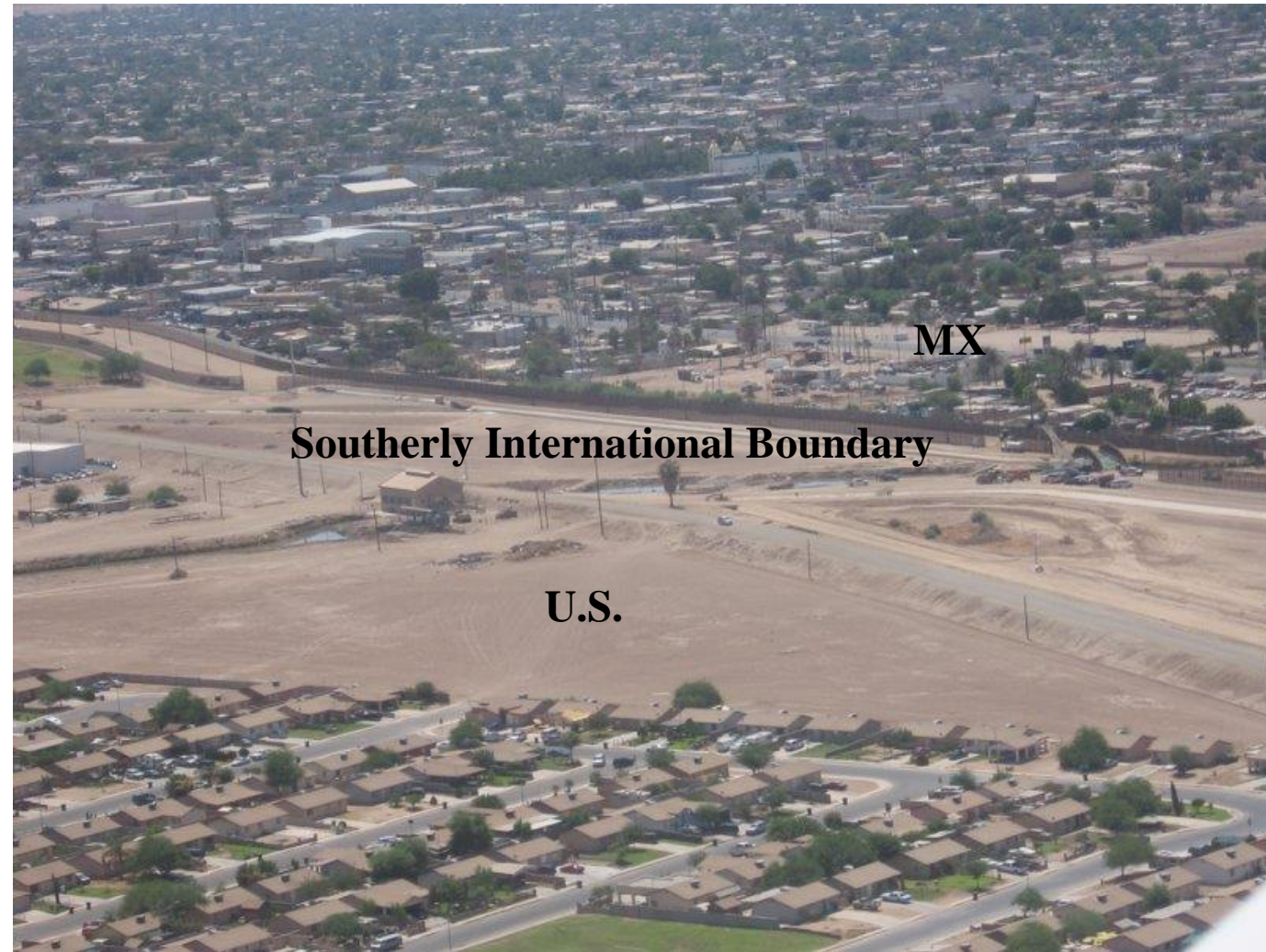
- 1944 Water Treaty allocated 1.5 maf of Colorado River water annually to Mexico.
- Authorized the construction of Morelos Dam to divert these waters for Mexico's use.
 - Approx. 1.1 miles downstream of CA/AZ land boundary
 - Constructed in 1950
 - Spans 1400 ft across
 - 20 river gates
 - 12 intake gates
 - Approx 1.36 maf of the 1.5 maf delivered at the dam





1944 Water Treaty - Colorado River

- Annual deliveries of +/- 140,000 af to SIB (San Luis, AZ/Sonora boundary) into the Sanchez Meorado Canal in Mexico.
- These flows are a combination of groundwater wells and run off from the Yuma valley fields



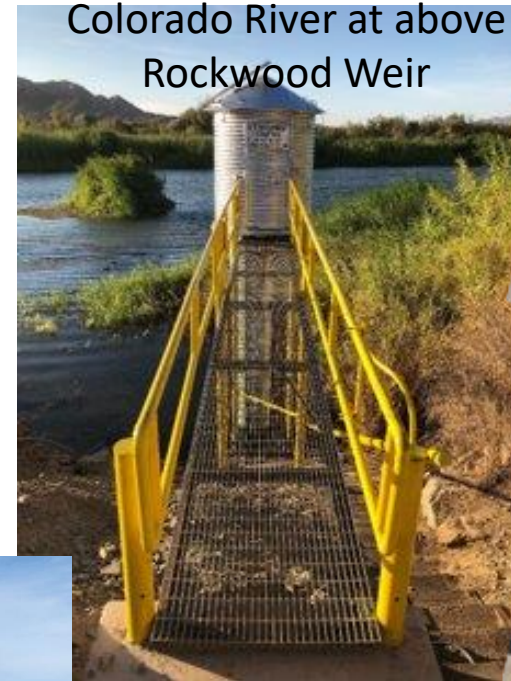


USIBWC Colorado River Gages

- 15 Stations
 - Securing Water Accounting data
- 1 Cableway
- Gages O&M by YFO
- Collect and analyze water samples from 10 of 15 gaging



Cooper Lateral



Colorado River at above
Rockwood Weir



11 Mile Wasteway



NIB Cableway



Wellton Mohawk bypass
drain at SIB



Rockwood Weir at NIB (left)

Tijuana River measurement
(right)



42 IBWC Monitoring Wells
measured - above and below
Morelos Dam.





Colorado River Salinity

- 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
- Collect water samples to calculate the monthly and annual salinity differential between Imperial Dam in the U.S. and Morelos Dam in Mexico to assure compliance with Treaty and Minute requirements.
- Minute 242 sets forth the measure to assure the Colorado River waters delivered to Mexico upstream from Morelos Dam has a flow-weighted average annual salinity of no more than 115 ppm +/- 30 ppm U.S. count (121 ppm +/- 30 ppm Mexico count).



Wellton Mohawk Bypass Drain in Mexico

- Minute 248 authorized the extension of the drain, joint process for the O&M, ensures the integrity and capacity of the drain.
- Diverts high saline water from the WMIDD to the drain.
- The extension is 50.4 miles (16.04 miles in the U.S.; 34.36 miles in MX)
- Mexico operates and maintains the drain
- U.S. secures the annual maintenance funds

Annual maintenance: Amphibious excavator in Mexico removing vegetation and sediment from the canal.





Monitoring of New River at the International Boundary

- **Minute 264** established a water quality goal
- Monitor the water quality through observations and the collection of samples in the U.S and Mexico.
- **Minute 294** established Binational Technical Committee of technical advisors for both countries.
- New River notification protocol





New River Binational Water Quality Monitoring Study

Comprehensive binational study:

- The study would assess and characterize New River water quality
- Multi-agency collaboration from both countries through the BTC
- Sampling sites in Mexico and the US
- Proposed parameters include: Metals, semi volatile organics, nutrients, bacteria
- One year study with seasonal collections
- In budget for 2024

The IBWC and the BTC will use the study to:

- Document the condition of the New River
- Evaluate water quality to validate recent improvements
- Create a baseline for planned improvements
- Identify pending issues and update efforts in both U.S. and Mex.
- Utilize the information to discuss and update the water quality standards in IBWC Minute 264



- Boundary Monuments inspection and maintenance (No. 168-204a)
- Monitor Land Port of Entry demarcations at the
 - San Luis I port of entry
 - San Luis II Commercial
 - Andrade, CA port of entry





1944 WATER TREATY- COLORADO RIVER



- U.S. to deliver to Mexico a volume of 1.5 maf/yr
- Challenges – Salinity & Drought
- Cooperation
 - Minute 242 (1973) - Solution to Salinity (1973)
 - Minute 317 (2010) – Conceptual Framework for cooperative actions
 - Minute 318 (2010) – Adjustment of delivery schedules as a result of earthquake damage
 - Minute 319 (2012) -Pilot on investment in conservation, conserved volumes, reduced deliveries, water for environment, creation of binational workgroups (5 year)
 - Minute 323 (2017) – Extension of Minute 319 and adoption of the binational water scarcity contingency plan (5 year)
 - Minute 330 (2024) Expansion of Colorado River Temporary Measures





Binational Workgroups

- **Minute 242**
 - Salinity Work Group
- **Minute 323**
 - Flow Variability
 - Salinity
 - Environmental
 - Desalination
 - Projects
 - Hydrology
 - All American Canal Turnout
- **Minute 330**
 - Salinity Policy

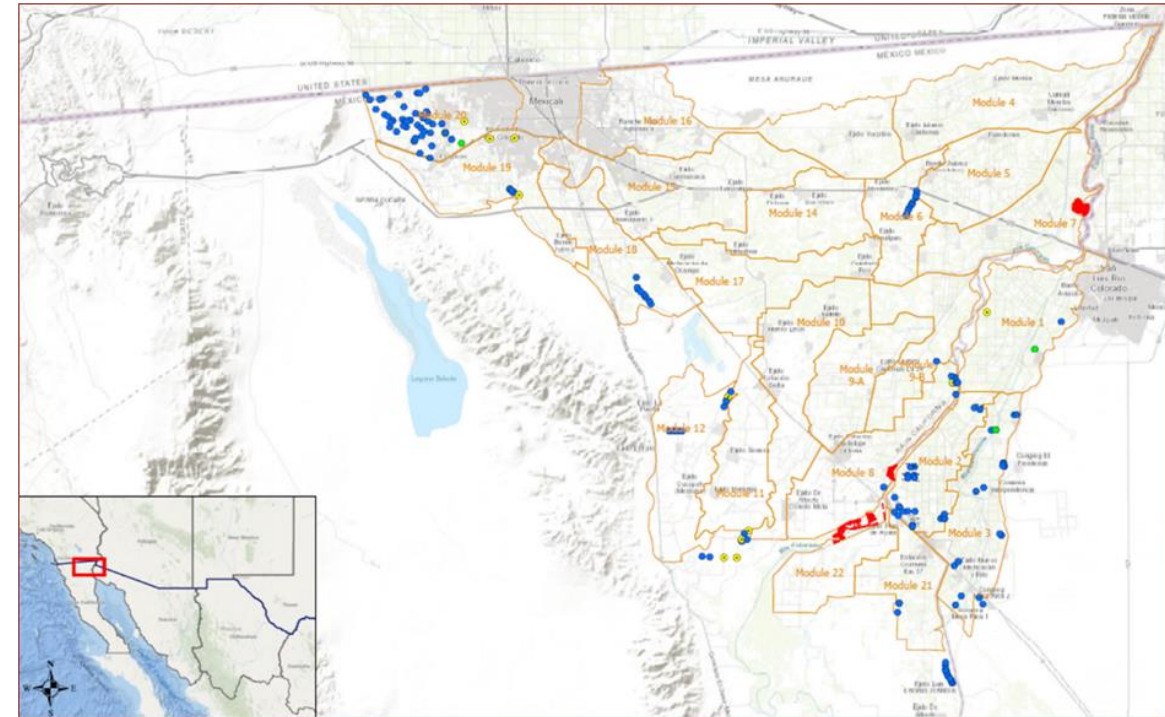




COOPERATION ON THE COLORADO RIVER

Accomplishments – Minute 319 (2012 – 2017)

- **\$21 M USD** invested in water conservation and environmental projects in Mexico
- Mexico made available **124,000 acre-feet to the US** in exchange for the investment in infrastructure.
- **Infrastructure projects** included - reconstruction, encasement, and lining of existing canals, gate modernizations, land leveling, among others
- Delivered **158,000 acre-feet** of water for environmental purposes
- Created **1,100 acres** of enhanced riparian habitat
- Successful pilot project that provided a **model for binational cooperation**



Conservation Infrastructure Projects in Mexico



COOPERATION ON THE COLORADO RIVER

- Minute 323 (2017 - 2026) – Ongoing
 - **\$31.5M in funding** for 229,000 AF for U.S. agencies, environment, and system storage
 - Water conservation and new water sources **projects**
 - Water for the **environment**
 - Creation of **Mexico's Water Reserve** to store water in the US for future delivery
 - **Shortage reductions** – Annual reductions based on lake elevations
 - **Recoverable** water savings



Laguna Grande Restoration Site



COOPERATION ON THE COLORADO RIVER

- **Minute 330 (2023 - 2026) - Signed 2024**
 - U.S. and Mexico commit to additional measures
 - through December 2026 in light of low **Colorado River reservoir levels**.
 - U.S. to **conserve approximately 3 million AF of Colorado River** between 2023 and 2026.
 - During same period, Mexico, through conservation projects, will **generate 400,000 AF**, in addition to volumes identified in Minute 323.
 - **U.S. to provide \$65 million** through IBWC for Mexican projects to generate water for Colorado River, more efficient use in Mexicali Valley.



U.S. and Mexican IBWC Commissioners sign Minute 330 in El Paso, Texas

What is Next? Post 2026!



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THANK YOU!



Anna Morales
Yuma Area Operation Manager
2995 S. Pacific Avenue, Suite A, Yuma, AZ 85365
(928) 782-1598