



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LÍMITES Y AGUAS

Overview of Commission History, Mission, and Projects

International Boundary and Water Commission
April 25, 2019

MISSION OF THE IBWC

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.



IBWC STRUCTURE

TREATY OFFICERS

U.S. SECTION

- Commissioner
- Secretary
- 2 Principal Engineers

MEXICAN SECTION

- Commissioner
- Secretary
- 2 Principal Engineers



COMMISSIONERS



- ◆ **2 Commissioners**
 - ▶ Jayne Harkins of the United States
 - ▶ Roberto Salmon of Mexico



IBWC STRUCTURE

- ◆ **International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC, the Commission)**
- ◆ **Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas entre México y los Estados Unidos (CILA, la Comisión)**
- ◆ **United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC or U.S. Section)**
- ◆ **Sección estadounidense de la Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (Sección estadounidense, CILA EU)**
- ◆ **Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (Mexican Section or MxIBWC)**
- ◆ **Sección mexicana de la Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (Sección mexicana or CILA MEX)**



BOUNDARY TREATIES

- ◆ **Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo (1848)** – peace treaty that established new territorial limits
- ◆ **Gadsden Treaty (1853)** - US purchased additional territory for railroad route
- ◆ **Convention of July 29, 1882** – established a temporary Commission to survey and mark the boundary
- ◆ **Convention of Nov. 12, 1884** – Means to address boundary disputes when river channel shifts
- ◆ **Convention of March 1, 1889** – Established International Boundary Commission to apply 1884 treaty



Boundary Monument



BOUNDARY TREATIES

◆ Convention of 1933

- ▶ Stabilized the international boundary in El Paso-Juarez Valley
- ▶ Authorized the Rio Grande Rectification Project
- ▶ Straightened the river channel
- ▶ Provided for construction of flood control levees on both sides



Rectified channel and levees



BOUNDARY TREATIES

◆ 1970 Boundary Treaty

- ▶ Resolved pending boundary disputes
- ▶ Authorized the Commission to relocate the river channel
- ▶ Prevents construction of works that would obstruct or deflect normal or flood flows
- ▶ Border defined as middle of the river channel with greatest average width over its length
- ▶ IBWC to demarcate the boundary on maps



Colorado River at SIB





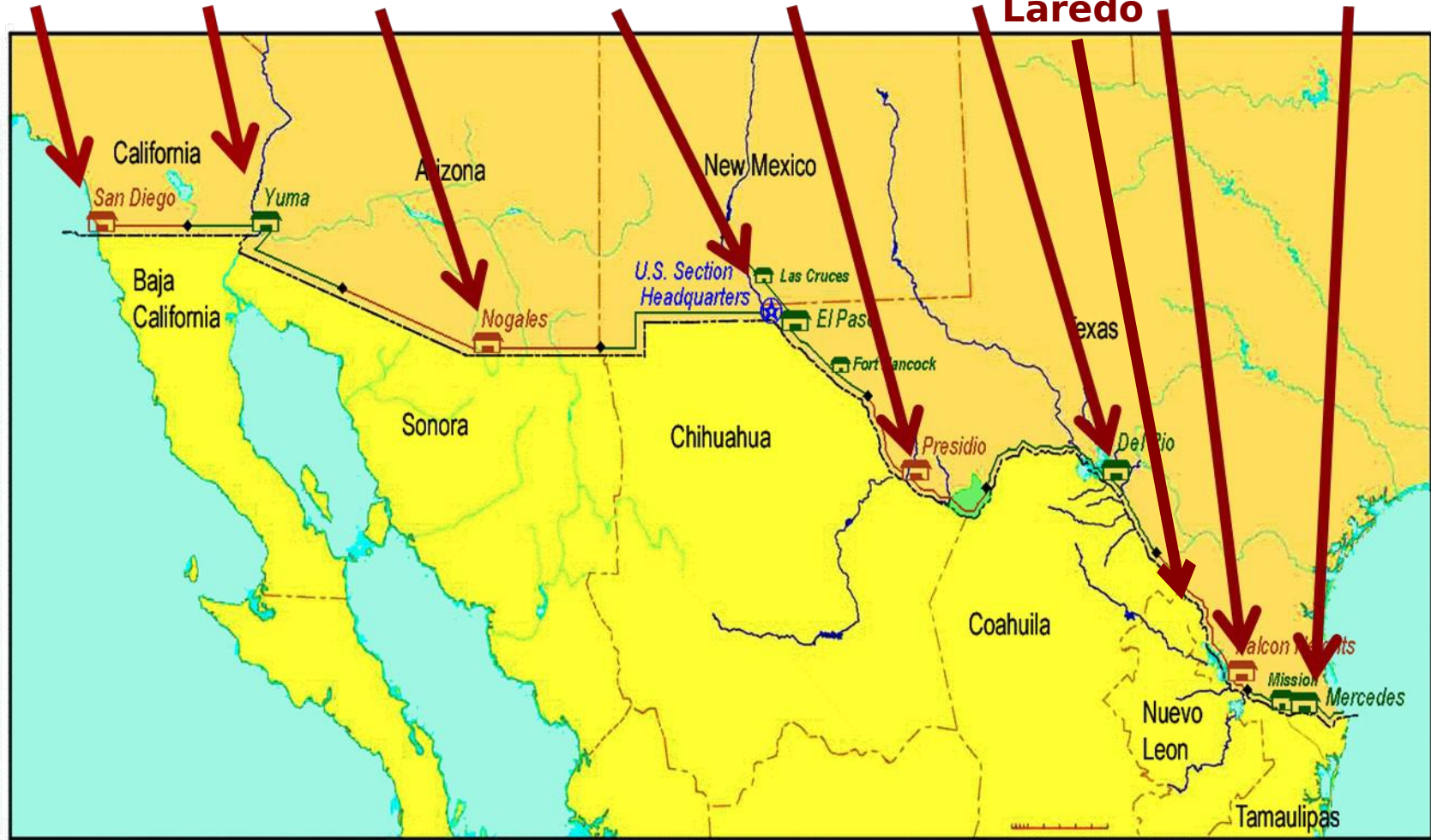


SAN LUIS, AZ/SONOR A POE



IBWC Field Offices

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



IBWC MINUTES

- ◆ Per 1944 Treaty, decisions of the Commission are recorded in the form of Minutes
- ◆ Legally binding
- ◆ Take effect when signed by the Commission and approved by the two governments
- ◆ Minutes provide a means to implement treaty
- ◆ 324 minutes to date



Minute 319 signing



RIO GRANDE/BRAVO BASIN



El Paso-Juarez
Convention of 1906

international dams

1944 Water Treaty



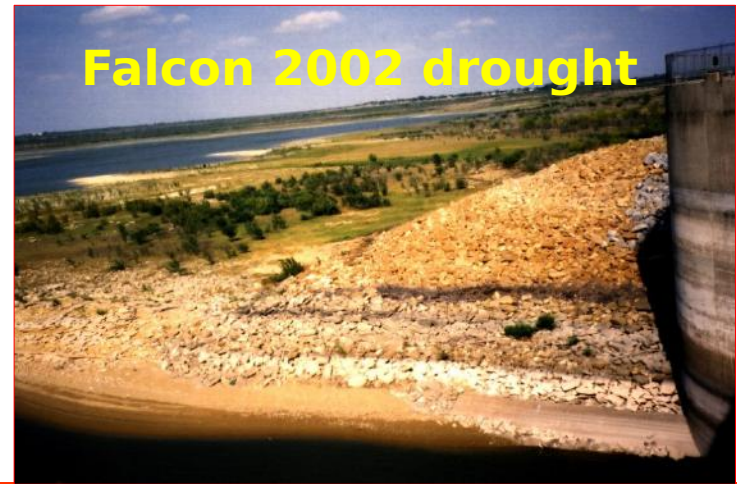
1944 WATER TREATMENT International Storage Dams

- ◆ Amistad Dam
 - ▶ Built in 1969
 - ▶ Del Rio, TX – Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila
- ◆ Falcon Dam
 - ▶ Built in 1954
 - ▶ Falcon Heights, TX - Nueva Ciudad Guerrero, Tamaulipas

Amistad 2010 flood release



Falcon 2002 drought



1944 WATER TREATY COLORADO RIVER

Colorado River Basin



Map of US portion
of the Colorado
River basin



1944 WATER TREATY COLORADO RIVER

- ◆ US to deliver to Mexico a volume of 1.5 maf/year
- ◆ When there are surplus waters, Mexico may receive an additional 200 kaf
- ◆ In extraordinary drought, Mexico is reduced in proportion to U.S.
- ◆ US has always met its delivery obligation



Morelos Dam



River gages along the Colorado River



1944 WATER TREATY

Sanitation

- ◆ Treaty authorizes Commission to give preferential attention to solution of border sanitation problems
- ◆ 3 international wastewater treatment plants
 - ▶ Rio Rico, AZ
 - ▶ Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
 - ▶ San Diego, CA



Nuevo Laredo plant



New River at the International Boundary in Calexico, CA/Mexicali, BC

Minute 264:

- Established water quality goals for three locations
- Parameters analyzed - fecal coliform, PH, dissolved oxygen, BOD, COD





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Thank you

U.S. SECTION
El Paso, Texas
www.ibwc.gov

MEXICAN SECTION
Ciudad Juarez,
Chihuahua
[www.sre.gob.mx/
cilanorte/](http://www.sre.gob.mx/cilanorte/)