



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

## USIBWC UPPER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM BOARD MEETING ON JULY 18

For immediate release  
July 12, 2024

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum board will host an in-person and virtual public meeting on **July 18, 2024, from 6:30-8:30 MDT.**

Enrique Ornelas, Deputy Regional Manager, USIBWC Upper Rio Grande Field Office, will give a presentation on “Sediment Disposal Program Updates.”

Genevieve Allan, Planning Group Supervisor, Water Management Division, Albuquerque Area Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, will present on “Reclamations Grant Opportunities and Drought Resilience Efforts in the Rio Grande Project.”

The public meeting will be held in person at:  
**Doña Ana County Government Center, Commission Chambers**  
**845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88007**

The public meeting will also be held virtually. To join the Microsoft Teams meeting, go to [this link](#). Click on the “Join” button. If you do not have Teams installed on the device you will use to attend the meeting, it will work through any internet browser. 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: +1 872-240-1286. Phone conference ID: 273 915 756#

For those connecting via phone, the presentations will be available before the start of the meeting. Go to the Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum page [RESCHEDULED: Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum: July 18, 2024, 6:30-8:30 p.m. MDT. - IBWC](#)

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](mailto:frank.fisher@ibwc.gov) or 915-494-6027 by noon on July 16, 2024.

News Media Contacts:  
Frank Fisher  
[frank.fisher@ibwc.gov](mailto:frank.fisher@ibwc.gov)  
915-494-6027

**USIBWC UPPER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Thursday July 18, 6:30-8:30 MDT**  
**Doña Ana County Government Center, Commission Chambers**  
**845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88007**  
**And via Teams Webinar**  
**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions – Co-Chairs
- **“Sediment Disposal Program Updates”** - Enrique Ornelas, Deputy Regional Manager, USIBWC Upper Rio Grande Field Office
- **“Reclamations Grant Opportunities and Drought Resilience Efforts in the Rio Grande Project”** - Genevieve Allan, Planning Group Supervisor, Albuquerque Area Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- 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:** [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NzBiNzhkZDIiNzJjOC00MDc5LWFjOWQtdNDUzODhiZDMxY2E4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221df28995-afdd-476f-979d-217597f1871d%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%225f2bc85c-79de-4b8c-900d-956f4383fe3f%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NzBiNzhkZDIiNzJjOC00MDc5LWFjOWQtdNDUzODhiZDMxY2E4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221df28995-afdd-476f-979d-217597f1871d%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%225f2bc85c-79de-4b8c-900d-956f4383fe3f%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 252 341 207 558

Passcode: aaxSSm

**Or call in (audio only)**

+1 872-240-1286,,273915756# United States

Phone conference ID: 273 915 756#



# **INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION**

**UNITED STATES SECTION**

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## **Sediment Disposal Program Updates**

**Enrique Ornelas, Deputy Regional Manager**

**Upper Rio Grande Field Office**

**Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum: July 18, 2024**



# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION UNITED STATES SECTION



HATCH, NM FLOOD OF 2006  
(Source: USACE-Albuquerque District)



# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION UNITED STATES SECTION



La Union, NM Flooding After Heavy Rains August 2021  
(Source: Las Cruces Sun News)



## PRE-EXISTING PROGRAM

- The pre-existing program was a paperwork system where customers had the need to physically travel to the respective field office and fill out paperwork.
- The paperwork required a wet signature from the prospective customer.
- Process cumbersome for customer.
- Storage and tracking was not efficient for the field offices.



## New Program & Primary Goals

- The new program needed to get rid of paper and incorporate technology. Have a digital form where a potential customer does not have to travel to the field office.
- Getting rid of the requirement for a wet signature.
- An internal team from IBWC which included staff from Legal, Safety, O&M and others, got together to create a digital cost agreement to achieve the desired goals.
- Storage, tracking, and follow up a lot more efficient.
- The digital site is up and running. QR code and Links →  
<https://forms.office.com/g/uPYMnuP7Kd>





\* Required

## Type of Agreement

1. The Agreement is made between USIBWC and: (select from Individual or Corporate/Business)

\*Note: Ranching and Farming fall under Corporate/Business \*

An Individual

A Corporate/Business

Next





3. ENTER FULL ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code): \*

Enter your answer

4. ENTER PHONE NUMBER: \*

Enter your answer

5. EMAIL ADDRESS: \*

Enter your answer

Back

Next



## SEDIMENT STOCKPILE LOCATIONS

### El Paso Sector pick up locations,

- Borderland Sediment Stockpile  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/31%C2%B053'57.5%22N+106%C2%B036'06.5%22W/@31.8993085,-106.6043679,919m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d31.899304!4d-106.601793>
- Vinton/Canutillo Sediment Stockpile 1  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/31%C2%B056'45.3%22N+106%C2%B036'15.9%22W/@31.9459075,-106.6069969,918m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d31.945903!4d-106.604422>
- Vinton/Canutillo Sediment Stockpile 2  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/31%C2%B056'24.5%22N+106%C2%B036'15.9%22W/@31.9401395,-106.6069999,918m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d31.940135!4d-106.604425>
- Vinton/Canutillo Sediment Stockpile 3  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/31%C2%B055'17.4%22N+106%C2%B036'07.1%22W/@31.9215015,-106.6045459,918m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d31.921497!4d-106.601971>
- Vinton/Canutillo Sediment Stockpile 4  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/31%C2%B055'14.8%22N+106%C2%B036'06.8%22W/@31.9207885,-106.6044739,918m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d31.920784!4d-106.601899>
- Vinton/Canutillo Sediment Stockpile 5  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/31%C2%B055'07.8%22N+106%C2%B036'07.0%22W/@31.9188495,-106.6045049,918m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d31.918845!4d-106.60193>
- Vinton/Canutillo Sediment Stockpile 6  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/31%C2%B055'04.0%22N+106%C2%B036'06.0%22W/@31.9177855,-106.6042359,918m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d31.917781!4d-106.601661>
- Vinton/Canutillo Sediment Stockpile 7  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/31%C2%B054'59.0%22N+106%C2%B036'05.6%22W/@31.9163795,-106.6041209,918m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d31.916375!4d-106.601546>



Las Cruces New Mexico Sector pick up location,

- Across the Hershey arroyo, located on the east side  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/32%C2%B037'15.5%22N+107%C2%B001'21.8%22W/@32.620969,-107.0252969,854m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d32.620969!4d-107.022722?entry=ttu>
- Above the Hershey arroyo, upstream from WW 18 It is located on the east side above the Lack Farms  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/32%C2%B037'26.5%22N+107%C2%B001'33.4%22W/@32.624036,-107.0285159,854m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d32.624036!4d-107.025941?entry=ttu>
- Above the Hershey arroyo, upstream from WW 18 it is located on the east side above the Lack Farms  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/32%C2%B037'34.1%22N+107%C2%B001'42.3%22W/@32.626135,-107.0309859,854m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d32.626135!4d-107.028411?entry=ttu>
- Further up from the Hershey arroyo, it is located on the eastside  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/32%C2%B037'47.1%22N+107%C2%B001'58.9%22W/@32.629759,-107.0356089,854m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d32.629759!4d-107.033034?entry=ttu>
- Further up from the Hershey arroyo, downstream from Big Nell arroyo It is located on the east side  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/32%C2%B037'52.1%22N+107%C2%B002'17.1%22W/@32.6311462,-107.0406639,854m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d32.6311462!4d-107.038089?entry=ttu>



# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION UNITED STATES SECTION

Fort Hancock Texas Sector pick up locations,

Down Stream from McClintock

Arroyo <https://www.google.com/maps/place/31%C2%B001'38.6%22N+105%C2%B034'50.7%22W/@31.0273543,-105.5837899,1103m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m4!3m3!8m2!3d31.027375!4d-105.58074?entry=ttu>



# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION UNITED STATES SECTION

31°53'57.5"N 106°36'06.5"W

Restaurants Hotels Things to do Transit P Parking Pharmacies ATMs

31°53'57.5"N 106°36'06.5"W

Directions Save Nearby Send to phone Share

- Canutillo, TX 79932
- V9XX+P7G Canutillo, Texas
- Add a missing place
- Add your business

Labels on map: Chevos Kitchen, Just Fix It Auto Care, Bug Out, Leo's Automotive, Human Services Department Food Stamps, Lalito's Auto Sales, landcontainers.com, TXDot Maintenance, Desert Commons West, WSSC Field 9, A & H Heating & Cooling, Energy Auto Repair.

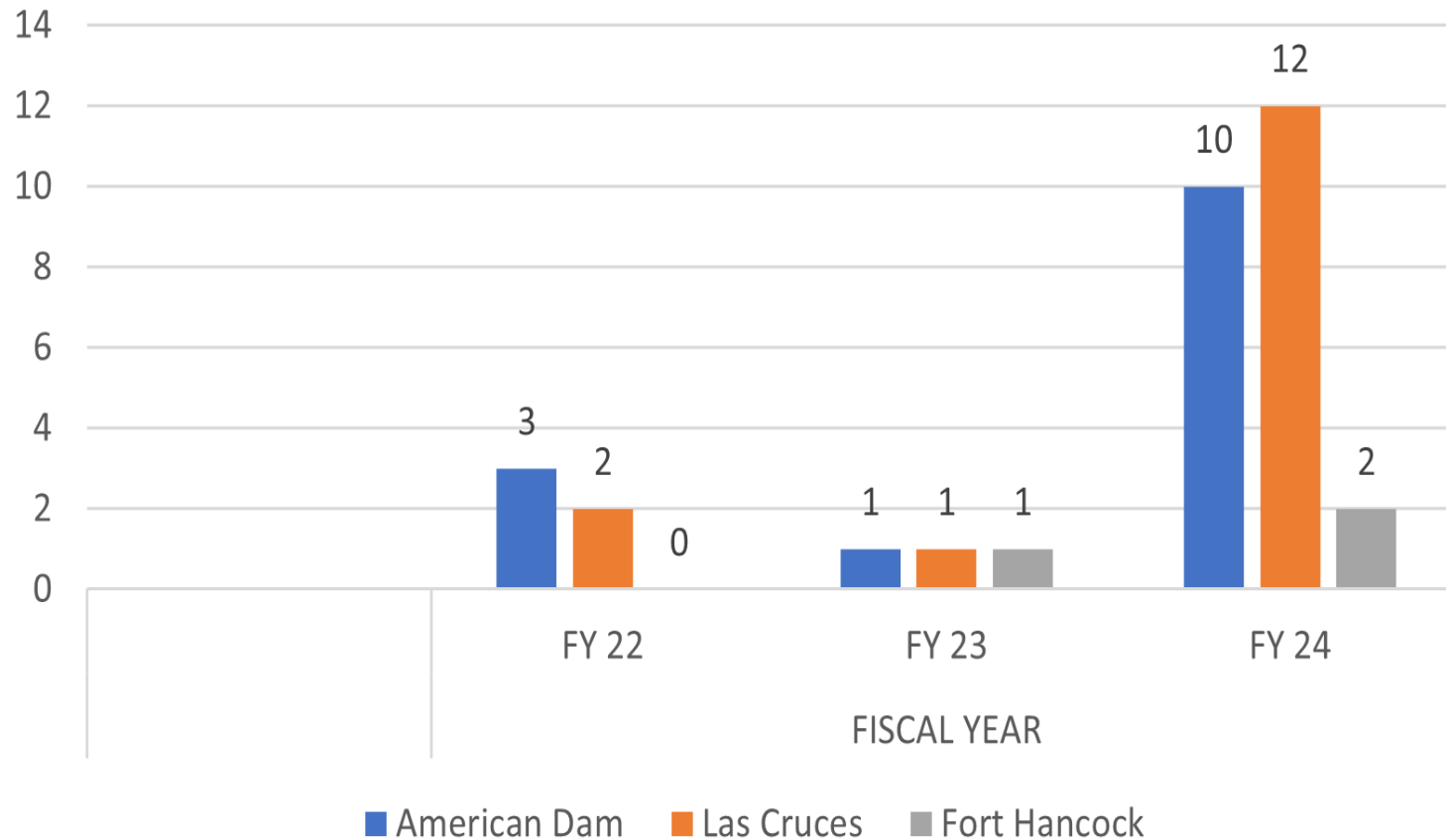
Layers

Google

Imagery ©2024 Airbus Maxar Technologies | USDA/FPAC/RFG Map data ©2024 United States Terms Privacy Report Product Feedback 200 ft



## NO COST AGREEMENTS PER FISCAL YEAR



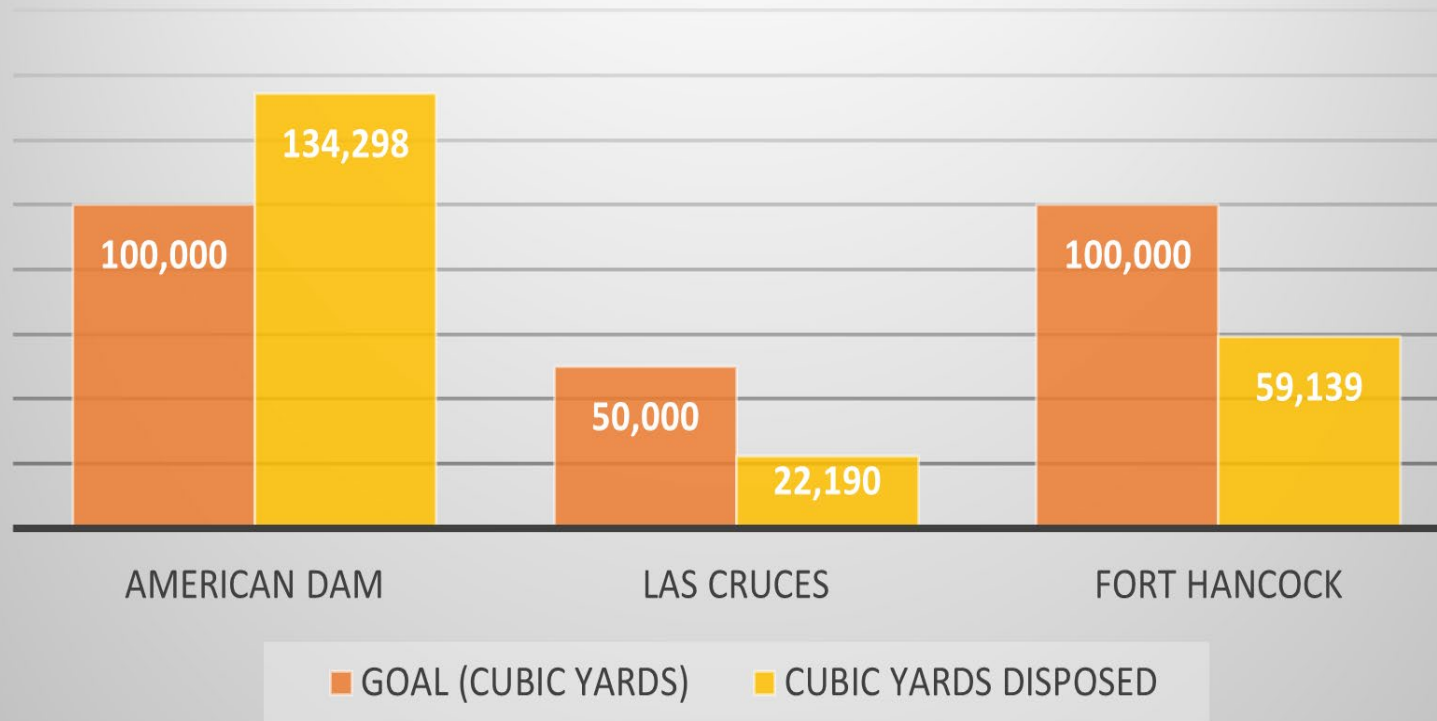


## Cubic Yards Disposed





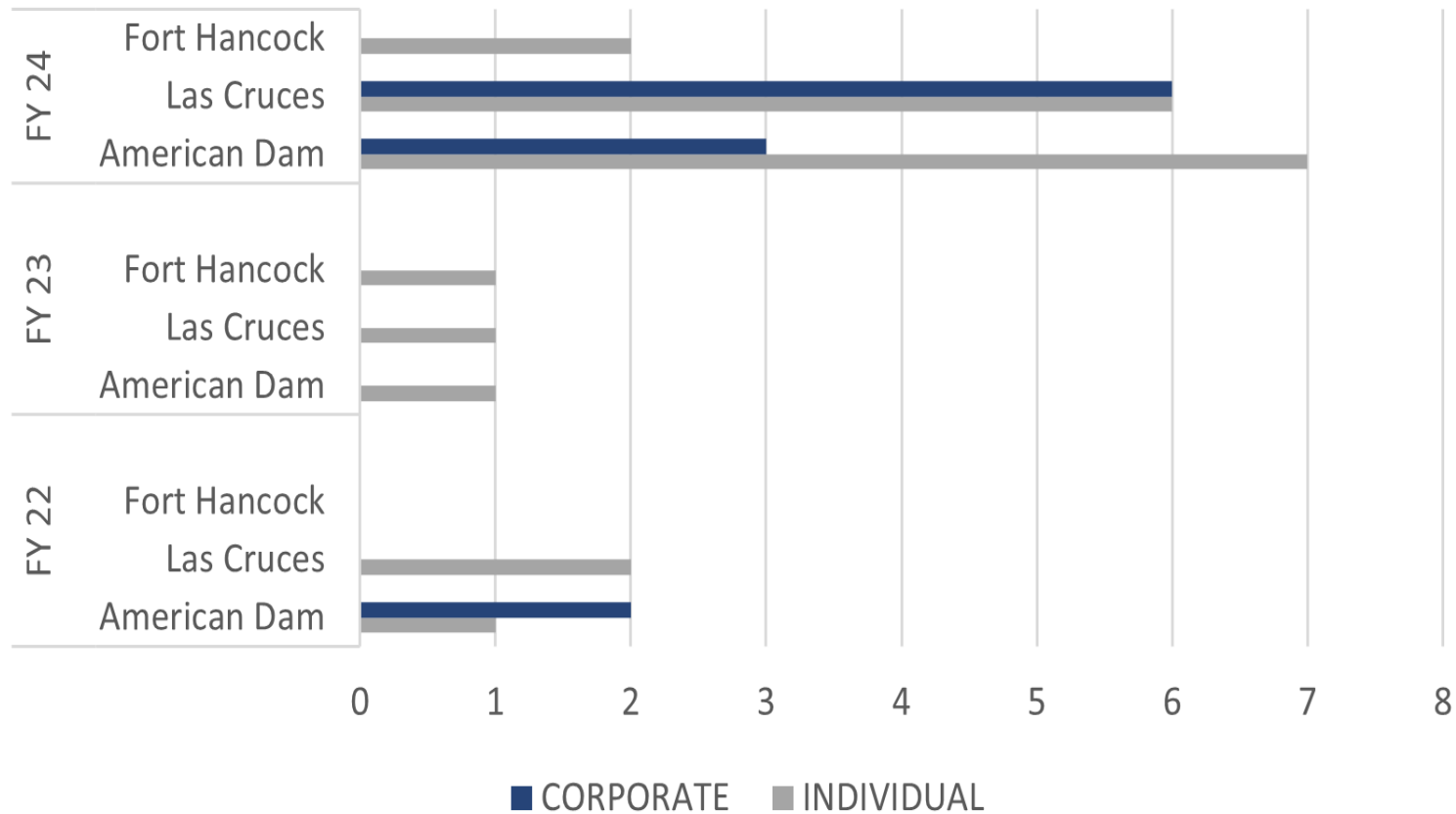
## FY 24 Sediment Disposal Per Field Office







## Corporate vs. Individual No Cost Agreements





# FY 24 STRATEGY

- Incorporate the QR code and links on all URG staff signature emails.
- Attend local outreach forums such as
  - Rio Grande Citizens Forum
  - Stormwater Coalition
  - others
- Partner with the PAO office to promote through X and other means available



# PATH FORWARD

- Heavy Equipment
- Catch Up
- Sediment Strategy



# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION UNITED STATES SECTION



# Thank you

NO COST AGREEMENT FOR  
SEDIMENT REMOVAL





# QUESTIONS ?

Sign up for USIBWC Announcements:



# Reclamation's Grant Opportunities and Drought Resilience Efforts in the Rio Grande Project

International Boundary Water Commission Citizen's Forum

July 18, 2024

Las Cruces, New Mexico



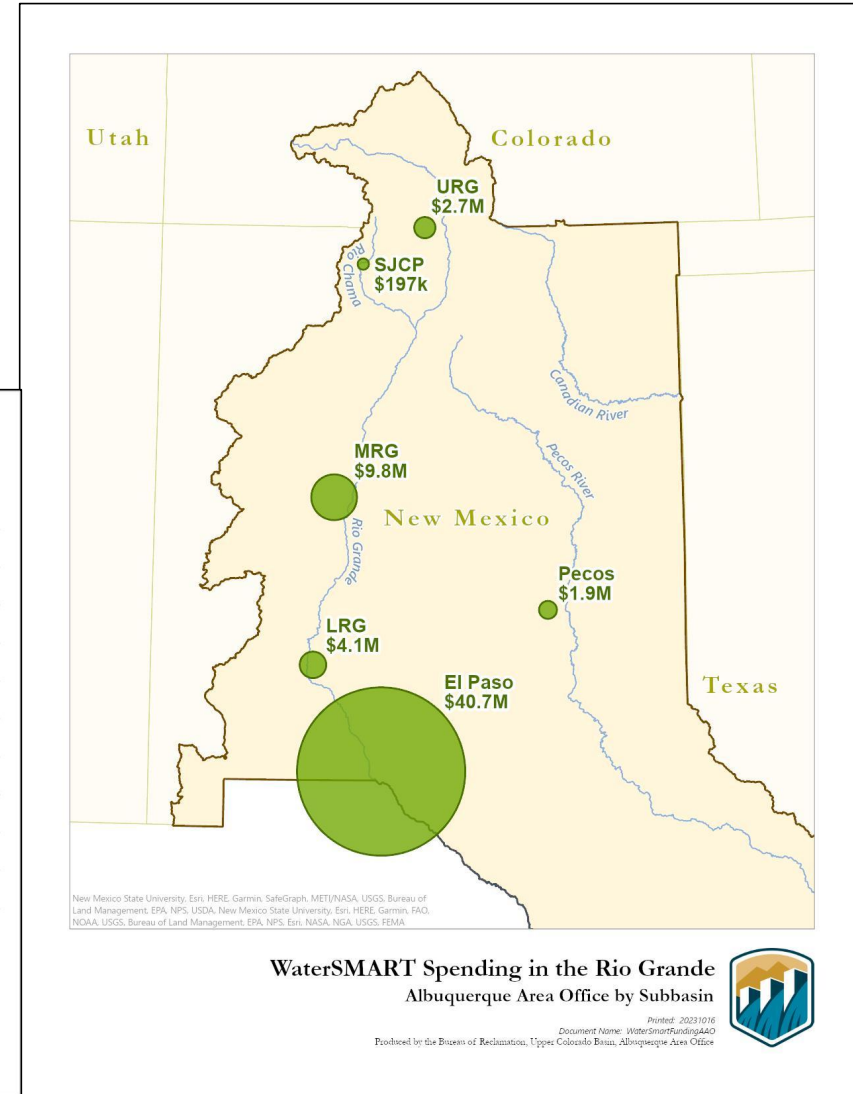
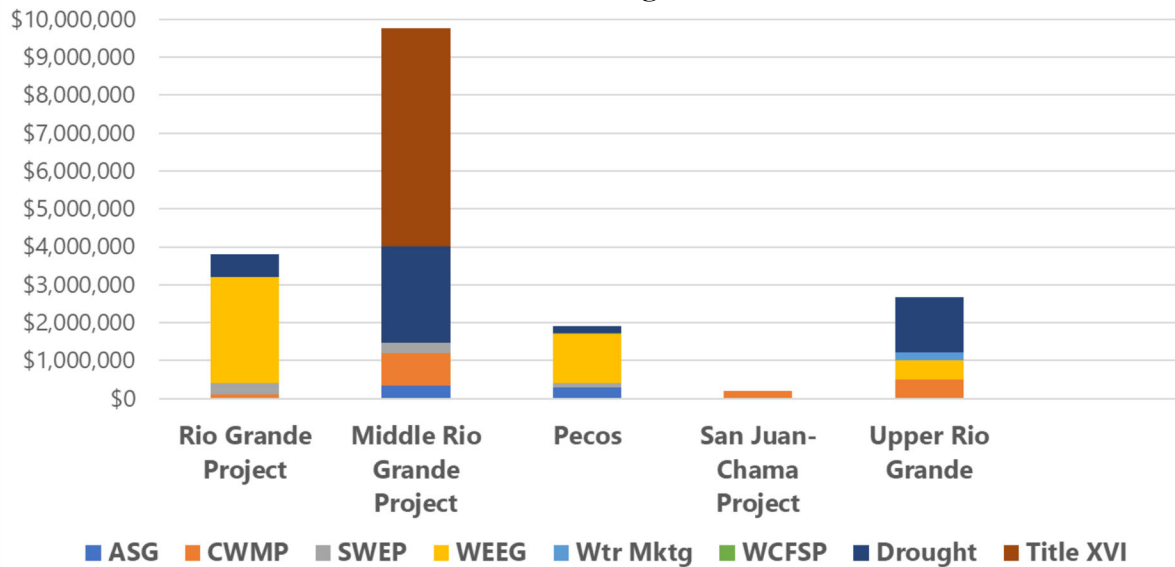
# Overview

- Reclamation's Investment in the Rio Grande and Pecos River Basins
- Inflation Reduction Act Funding for the Rio Grande Project
- Rio Grande Project Area Drought Resilience Efforts
- Reclamation's Grant Opportunities
- Questions and Discussion



# Reclamation Funding in the Rio Grande and Pecos River Basins: 2018-2023

Rio Grande and Pecos WaterSMART Project Funding





# Inflation Reduction Act Funding for the Rio Grande Project

- Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland announced that \$60 million of Inflation Reduction Act funding will be dedicated to the Rio Grande Basin in May.
- The Bureau of Reclamation will work with partners to develop supplemental water projects or programs to benefit Reclamation's Rio Grande Project and endangered species in the Basin.
- The water savings from the proposed projects are anticipated to be in the tens of thousands of acre-feet per year.

[Biden-Harris Administration Delivers \\$60 Million from Investing in America Agenda for Drought Resilience in the Rio Grande Basin | U.S. Department of the Interior \(doi.gov\)](#)



# Rio Grande Project Area - Drought Resilience Team (RGPA-DRT)

- A multi-agency technical team established by NMOSE, USBR, and EBID in response to prolonged aridification of Rio Grande Project area.
- Team aims to:
  - Build resilience in the Project water supply;
  - Improve water management;
  - Enhance habitat to the extent possible;
  - Explore water conservation opportunities;
  - Allow for information sharing between gov't agencies and Project water users;
  - Capitalize on joint funding opportunities.



Participating Agencies*		
Army Corps of Engineers	Doña Ana County	New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (Founder)
Bureau of Land Management	Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District	New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
Bureau of Reclamation (Founder)	Elephant Butte Irrigation District (Founder)	New Mexico State Lands Office
Caballo Soil and Water Conservation District	International Boundary Water Commission	New Mexico State University – Water Resource Research Institute
City of Las Cruces	National Resource Conservation Service	US Geological Survey

\*The list of participating agencies is ever evolving and many other agencies contribute indirectly. Picture courtesy of Elephant Butte Irrigation District.

# Drought Resilience Efforts in the Rio Grande Project Area

## Cooperative Agreement between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Reclamation

- Inspired by the multi-agency efforts of the RGPA-DRT, Reclamation entered into a cooperative agreement with NFWF for multi-benefit water conservation and ecosystem restoration projects.
  - Off-channel storage
  - Sediment dam enhancements
  - Demand management
- 5-year agreement
- Supported by expertise of partners from the RGPA-DRT



# Reclamation's Grant Programs:

Example Projects in the Rio Grande and Pecos Basins

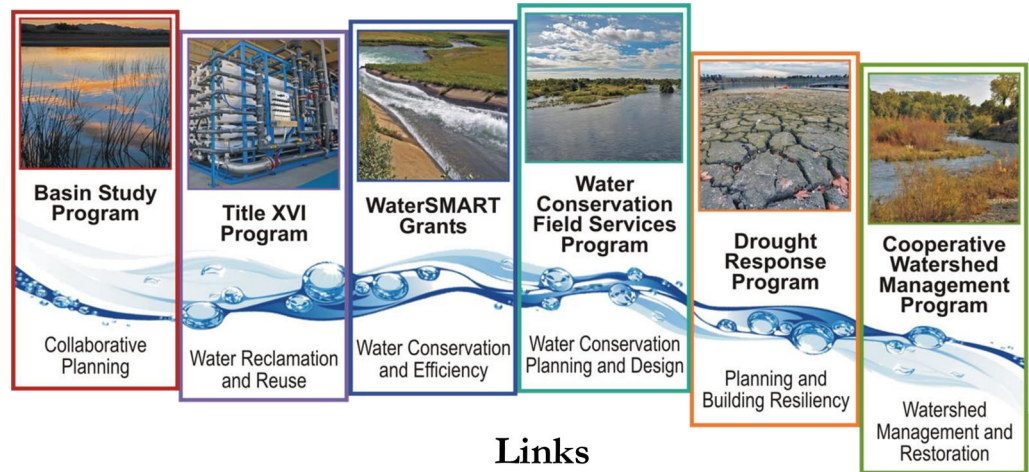


# Upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunities

Through WaterSMART Grants, Reclamation provides financial assistance\* for projects to:

- conserve and use water more efficiently
- implement renewable energy
- investigate and develop water marketing strategies
- mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict
- accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the western U.S.

\*Cost-shared projects that can be completed within two or three years are selected annually through a competitive process.



## Links

[WaterSMART Website](#)

[WaterSMART Calendar](#)

[Program Data Portal](#)

[Data Visualization Tool](#)





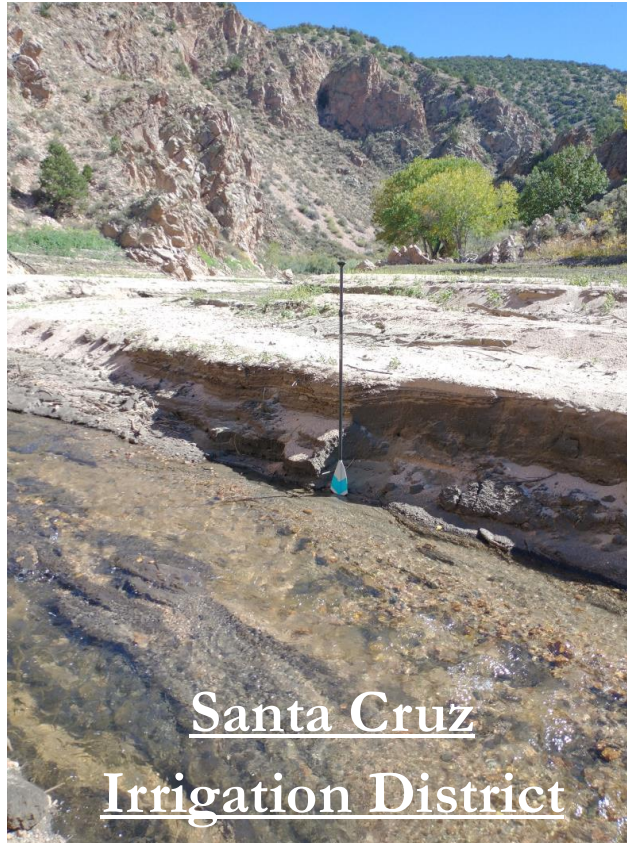
# Applied Science Grants

- For the Development of tools and information to support water management for multiple uses.
  - Development of modeling and forecasting tools, hydrologic data platforms, and new data sets.
- NM Institute of Mining & Technology for the New Mexico Water Data Initiative:  
<https://newmexicowaterdata.org>
  - \$195k/\$197k for NM Water Data Initiative: Improving Water Data Access for Modeling in the Middle Rio Grande
  - \$300k federal/\$300k non-federal: Regional Pilot Project for Improved Data Management and Decision Support Tool in the Lower Pecos Valley

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/appliedscience/index.html>

# Cooperative Watershed Management Projects

- For watershed groups to encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions to address their water management needs
- Phase I: Watershed Group Development and Watershed Restoration Planning
- Phase II: Implementation of Watershed Management Projects



# Small Scale Water Efficiency Grants

- Projects eligible for funding include installation of flow measurement or automation in a specific part of a water delivery system, lining a section of a canal to address seepage, or other similar projects that are limited in scope.
- Water Conservation in the City of Las Cruces: Installing SMART Irrigation Technology for the Efficient Use of Water Supplies
- \$75k federal/\$150k non-federal



<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/index.html>





# Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

- For projects that conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of hydropower; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability in the western United States.
- Elephant Butte Irrigation District: Renovating Efficient Access to Rio Grande Project Surface Water for the Mesilla Valley
  - \$1.8 million federal/\$3.8 million non-federal
  - Convert 13,540 feet of open canal to pipe; install 6 lift pumps
  - Modernize California Lateral and Extension
  - Revitalize the Three Saints Main Canal at Wasteway 19
  - Annual water savings of 9,059 ac-ft/year anticipated

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/index.html>



Joe Paul Lack, Hatch Valley Farmer and EBID Board Member Precinct 2, shaking hands with Wayne Pullan, Reclamation Upper Colorado Basin Regional Director



# Water Marketing and Strategy Grants

- Water supply projects, water marketing activities, water management projects, and/or activities and river restoration activities, including planning projects.
- Projects must restore a natural feature or use a nature-based feature to reduce water supply and demand imbalances or the risk of drought or flooding; and projects that otherwise mitigate against the impacts of climate change to fish and wildlife habitats.
- Rio Grande Water Conservation District: Colorado's Rio Grande Basin Water Cooperative Project
  - Water Marketing Strategy Grant for \$212,755
  - Develop water marketing program to help manage impacts from groundwater pumping & address 16,000 ac-ft/yr shortfall to sustain agricultural irrigation



<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/watersmart/watermarketing/index.html>

# Drought Response Program

- Provides assistance for drought contingency planning and to take actions that build long-term resiliency to drought.
- Drought Response Program includes three programs: Drought Contingency Planning, Drought Resiliency Projects, and Emergency Response Actions.
- Regions of New Mexico with Acequia Water Distribution Systems: Tools to Adapt to Water Scarcity and Guide Implementation of Strategies to Increase Acequia Community and Water Resilience
  - New Mexico Acequia Association
  - \$1.5 million federal/\$1.5 million non-federal

<https://www.usbr.gov/drought/>



# Title XVI Program: Water Recycling and Desalination Program

- Funding for planning, design, and construction of water recycling and reuse projects in partnership with local government entities.
- City of Santa Fe Reuse Pipeline
  - \$5.8 million federal/\$35 million non-federal
  - Project will enable the City of Santa Fe to fully utilize their contracted San Juan-Chama Project water and expand system flexibility.

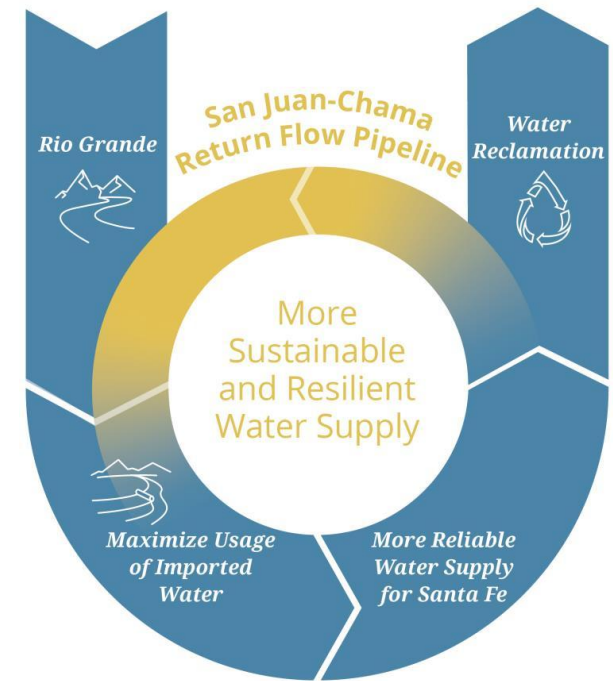


Figure courtesy of the City of Santa Fe.

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart//title/titlexvi.html>



# Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program

- Purpose is to design and construct aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and result in improvement of the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat.
- Southside Wastewater Reclamation Plant Outfall Restoration Project
  - Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
  - Reconnecting approximately 1,900 linear feet of the Rio Grande to its floodplain
  - Restoring the river's natural hydraulic processes and enhancing habitat for the endangered minnow and other endangered species
  - \$3.0 million federal/\$4.1 non-federal

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/aquatic/index.html>

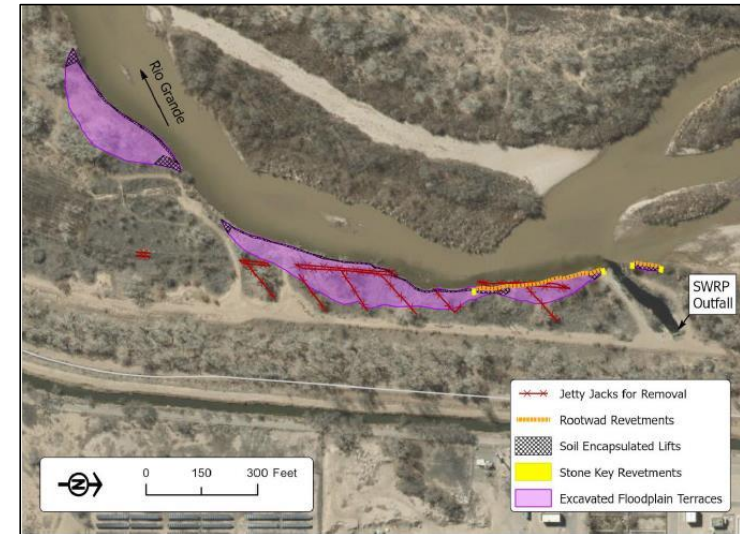


Figure courtesy of ABCWUA.



# Environmental Water Resources Project Funding

- Program supports projects focused on environmental benefits and that have been developed as part of a collaborative process to help carry out an established strategy to increase the reliability of water resources.
- **Increasing Resiliency in the San Juan-Chama Project Headwaters**
  - Chama Peak Land Alliance
  - \$3 million federal and \$1 million non-federal
  - Ecological forest thinning of 2,150 acres to protect the Rio Chama and Rio Brazos Headwaters from wildfire.



<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/index.html>

# Drought Contingency Planning

- Funding is for recipients to develop a drought contingency plan or to update an existing plan.
- Most drought contingency planning processes are structured to address the three following questions:
  - How will we recognize the next drought in the early stages?
  - How will drought affect us?
  - How can we protect ourselves from the next drought?
- 2016 Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Drought Contingency Plan
  - <https://www.usbr.gov/drought/docs/apps/2016/planning/003middleriogrande.pdf>

<https://www.usbr.gov/drought/planning.html>



# Basin Study Program

- Basin Studies help stakeholders address and plan for water supply and demand imbalances. Through these studies Reclamation provides technical assistance, tool development, and brings together competing interests within river basins to help identify collaborative solutions.
- Rio Grande (NM) Basin Study: Lobatos Gage to Elephant Butte
  - In partnership with MRGCD; currently up to 39 non-Federal signatories
    - 8 pueblos
    - Also represented: irrigation districts, acequia associations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, local governance organizations
  - The significant modeling efforts used in this project are being utilized by other projects.
  - Sectoral Committees working through reporting to inform Study
    - Agricultural, Community orgs, Governance orgs, NGOs, and Tribal





# Questions?

Genevieve Allan  
Planning Group Supervisor  
Water Management Division  
Albuquerque Area Office  
Bureau of Reclamation  
[gallan@usbr.gov](mailto:gallan@usbr.gov)

