

Rio Grande Compact, Rio Grande Project
Operating Agreement and Water Conservation
in El Paso County Water Improvement District
Jesus Reyes
General Manager



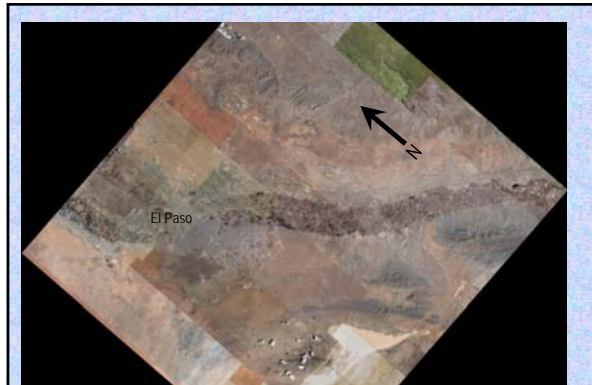
EL PASO COUNTY WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. 1
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New Mexico-Texas-Mexico Border



EL PASO COUNTY WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. 1

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EL PASO COUNTY WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. 1

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El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1

- Irrigation District – 400 miles of canals
- Created in 1917 – Includes international boundary
- Political Subdivision of the State of Texas
- Part of federal Rio Grande Reclamation Project
- Work closely with
 - Elephant Butte Irrigation District
 - Department of Interior - Bureau of Reclamation
 - United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission



EL PASO COUNTY WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. 1

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Purpose of District

- Supply Irrigation Water to Agricultural Lands
- Provide Groundwater Drainage of Agricultural Lands
- Supply raw water to surface treatment plants
- Provide Limited Stormwater Drainage



EL PASO COUNTY WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. 1

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Rio Grande Compact

- Surface Water Accounting – CO, TX, NM
- Normal Annual Release of 790,000 for RGP
- “Texas” includes portion of NM in RGP
- No language on distribution of water in “Texas”
- No language on impact of groundwater pumping on flow in the Rio Grande



EL PASO COUNTY WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. 1

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Rio Grande Project Operating Agreement What it Does

- Conserved Water Stored in Reservoir for Future Use
- Minimizes impact of drought on RGP
- Address Groundwater Depletions in New Mexico
- Increase the reliability of Project Water Supply
- Eliminates the "Use it or Loss it" policy
- Encourages water conservation by rewarding those that conserve
- Allows improved conjunctive use of groundwater



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Rio Grande Project Operating Agreement What it does not do

- Does not change Compact accounting procedures or compact language in any manner
- Does not change hypothetical spill calculations or accounting of credits and debits



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5 Major Water Conservation and Drought Mitigation Efforts

- Policy
- Information Management
- Automation
- On-Farm Conservation
- Conveyance System Improvements



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Conveyance System Improvements Projects

- More Accurate Flow Measurement Sites
- Supplement Well Field
- Conversion of Open Channels to Pipeline
 - Expensive
 - Debris and Sedimentation Issue
 - Usually requires safety issue to justify cost
- Impervious Lining of Canal
 - EPDM
 - Concrete
- Regulating Reservoirs
 - Federally Authorized Riverside Canal Improvement Project



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Anthony Cableway Station

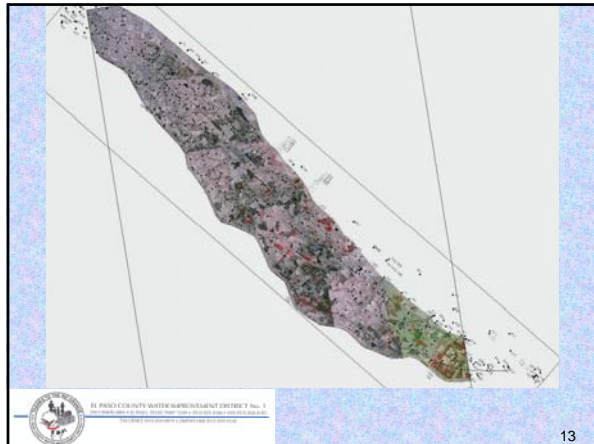


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60 Shallow Alluvium Aquifer Wells



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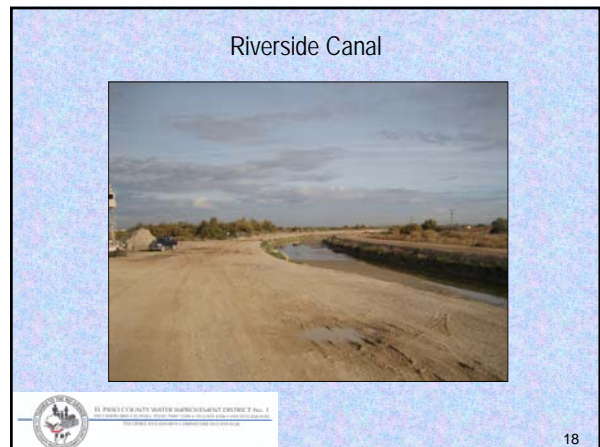
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Regulating Reservoirs



EL PASO COUNTY WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT No. 1
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Riverside Canal - Socorro Pond - 300 acres



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Summary - Operating Agreement

- Promotes Conservation
- Increase reliability of water supply
- Allows better conjunctive use of groundwater
- Avoided years of litigation and millions of dollars



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