

Rio Grande Compact “Overview”

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Commissioner
June 2008



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Laws of the Rio Grande

- Treaty's with Mexico
 - 1906 Convention – Rio Grande above Fort Quitman
 - 1944 Treaty – Rio Grande Below Fort Quitman
- Rio Grande Compact
- Congressional Authorizations
 - Flood Control Act of 1960 (86-645)
 - San Juan-Chama Project (87-483)
 - Cochiti Permanent Pool (88-293)
- State Water Law
 - Texas

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The Rio Grande Compact

- Entered between Colorado, New Mexico and Texas in 1938
- Equitably apportions the waters of the Rio Grande above Fort Quitman, Texas
- Annual Delivery Requirements
 - Colorado's delivery point is the New Mexico state line
 - Since 1949, New Mexico's delivery point is Elephant Butte Reservoir
 - 57% of the “Texas” Supply is consumed in New Mexico

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Compact Administration

- Colorado Commissioner - State Engineer
- New Mexico Commissioner – State Engineer
- Texas Commissioner – Appointed by the Governor, Federal Chairman – does not vote
- Technical and legal support provided to each Commissioner
- The Commission meets annually to conduct it's business. Special meetings may be called to address issues.

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Rio Grande Basin Water Supply

- Rio Grande flows – Native waters
- Imported waters
 - Closed Basin Project - Colorado
 - Trans-mountain water – Colorado
 - San Juan-Chama Project – New Mexico

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Rio Grande Compact Implications

- Compact apportions native flows between Colorado, New Mexico and Texas
- Provides an opportunity for development of waters from outside the basin
- Provides an opportunity to construct new reservoirs after approval of the Compact

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Rio Grande Compact Implications continued

- Provides for a detailed water accounting to ensure native water deliveries are not impacted
- Specific Compact provisions related to post-compact reservoirs
 - Article VII Rio Grande Compact - 400kaf restriction
 - Article VIII Rio Grande Compact - Release from reservoirs when in debt

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