

# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, UNITED STATES SECTION





## STRUCTURE PER 1944 TREATY

### INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION (IBWC)

#### MEXICAN SECTION

- Mexican Commissioner
- Secretary
- Two Principal Engineers
- Legal Adviser

#### US SECTION

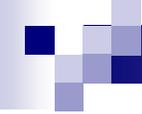
- US Commissioner
- Secretary
- Two Principal Engineers
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# IBWC STRUCTURE

- Established in 1889 to address issues when boundary rivers shifted
- Each Commissioner appointed by his respective president
- When the two Sections meet as a Commission, they have the status of an International Organization
- Each Section employs its own staff
- IBWC staff operate projects, including joint operation of dams



U.S. Com. Carlos Marin



# IBWC STRUCTURE

- Decisions of the Commission shall be recorded in the form of Minutes
- Minutes are subject to approval by the Governments (State, SRE) and are binding
- 312 IBWC Minutes

# MISSION OF THE USIBWC

*Our mission is to provide boundary, water and environmental solutions along the United States-Mexico border region through leadership, binational cooperation, and future sustainability in a manner that is responsive to stakeholders.*

# IBWC OFFICES ON THE BORDER



# CONVENTION OF 1906

- Distribution between Mexico and the U.S. of the waters of the Rio Grande in the El Paso-Juarez region
- U.S. to deliver 60,000 acre-feet per year
- Proportional reduction in deliveries in case of extraordinary drought
- Water stored in Elephant Butte Dam, NM

# OTHER BOUNDARY TREATIES

- **Convention of 1933/Rio Grande Rectification Project** – Stabilize the international boundary in the El Paso-Juarez Valley
- **Chamizal Convention (1963)** – Relocate the Rio Grande in a new channel in El Paso-Juarez



RIO GRANDE RECTIFICATION PROJECT IN THE EL PASO-JUAREZ VALLEY



RIVER BED AND RECTIFIED CHANNEL

# 1970 BOUNDARY TREATY

- IBWC to maintain the Rio Grande and Colorado River as the international boundary
- Boundary is middle of the channel occupied by normal flow or middle of the channel which in normal flows has the greatest average width over its length
- IBWC to delineate the international boundary on maps
- IBWC may stabilize or rectify the channel

# 1944 WATER TREATY

## Colorado River

- U.S. to deliver to Mexico a volume of 1.5 million acre-feet per year
- When there are surplus waters, U.S. to deliver to Mexico a total volume of up to 1.7 million acre-feet per year
- In extraordinary drought, Mexico reduced in proportion to U.S.

# 1944 WATER TREATY

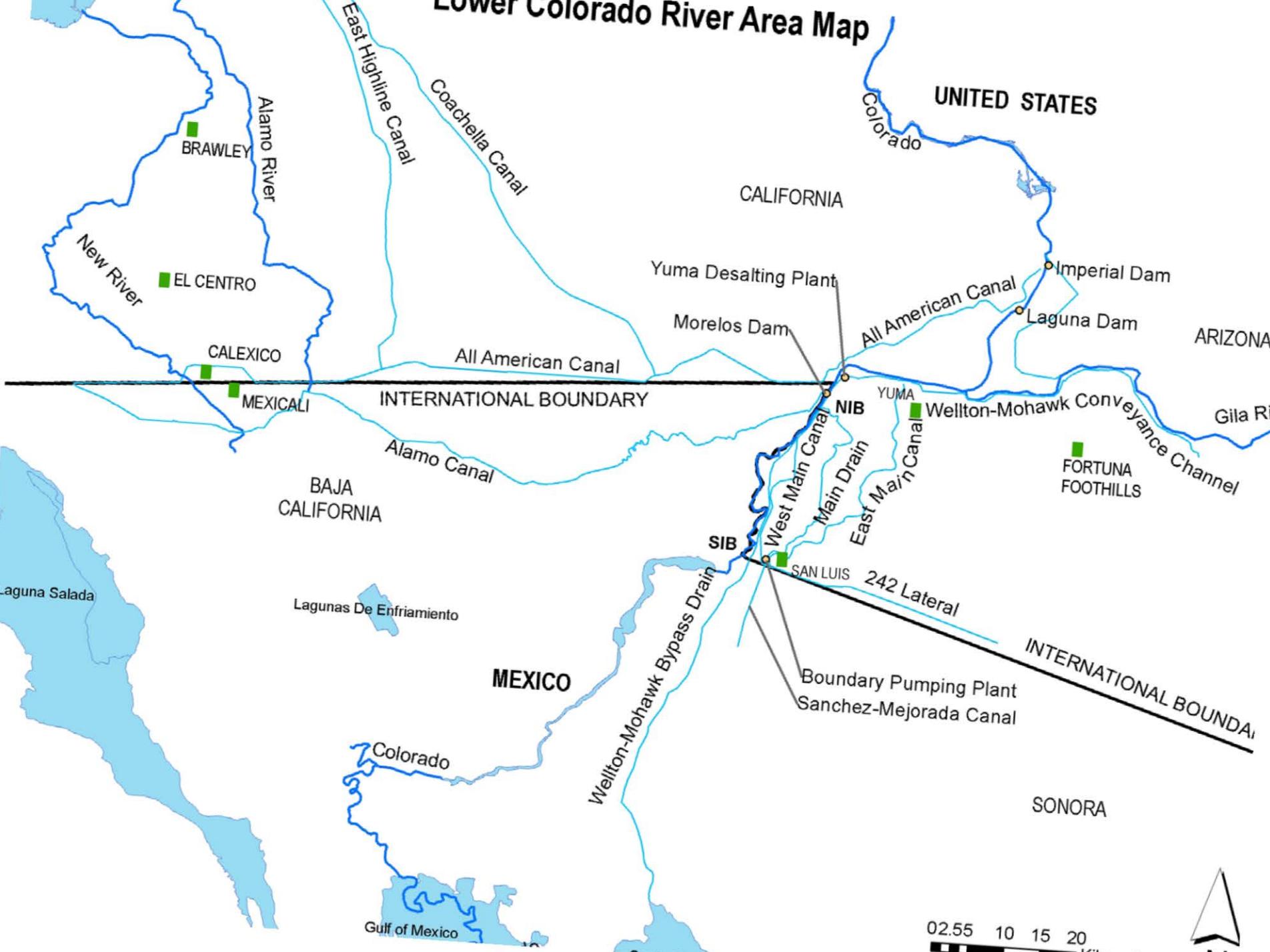
(Rio Grande, Ft. Quitman to the Gulf)

- Mexico to deliver annual average of 350,000 acre-feet to U.S. in cycles of five years
- U.S. allotted 1/3 of water arriving in Rio Grande from 6 Mexican tributaries
- Flows from unmeasured tributaries shared 50-50
- Two international storage dams



***PROJECTS IN THE COLORADO RIVER  
CITIZENS' FORUM REGION***

# Lower Colorado River Area Map



# MORELOS DAM

- Located west of Yuma near Algodones
- Constructed in 1950
- 1400 feet long
- 20 gates
- Diverts Colorado River water to Mexico
- Mexico covers all costs
- Sedimentation of spillway

ALGODONES

ESTACION HIDROMETRICA  
LINDERO INTERNACIONAL NORTE

MTO. NUM. 206

ALAMO CANAL

MON. NO. 206

BOCATOMA  
PRESA  
MORELOS

ERIOR

PRESA MORELOS

A

MORELOS DAM

NORTHERLY INTERNATIONAL  
BOUNDARY GAGING STATION

WELLTON-MOHAWI

UTHERN

PACIFIC

RR

COOPER

LATERAL

POWER PLANT

9TH



# COLORADO RIVER INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE

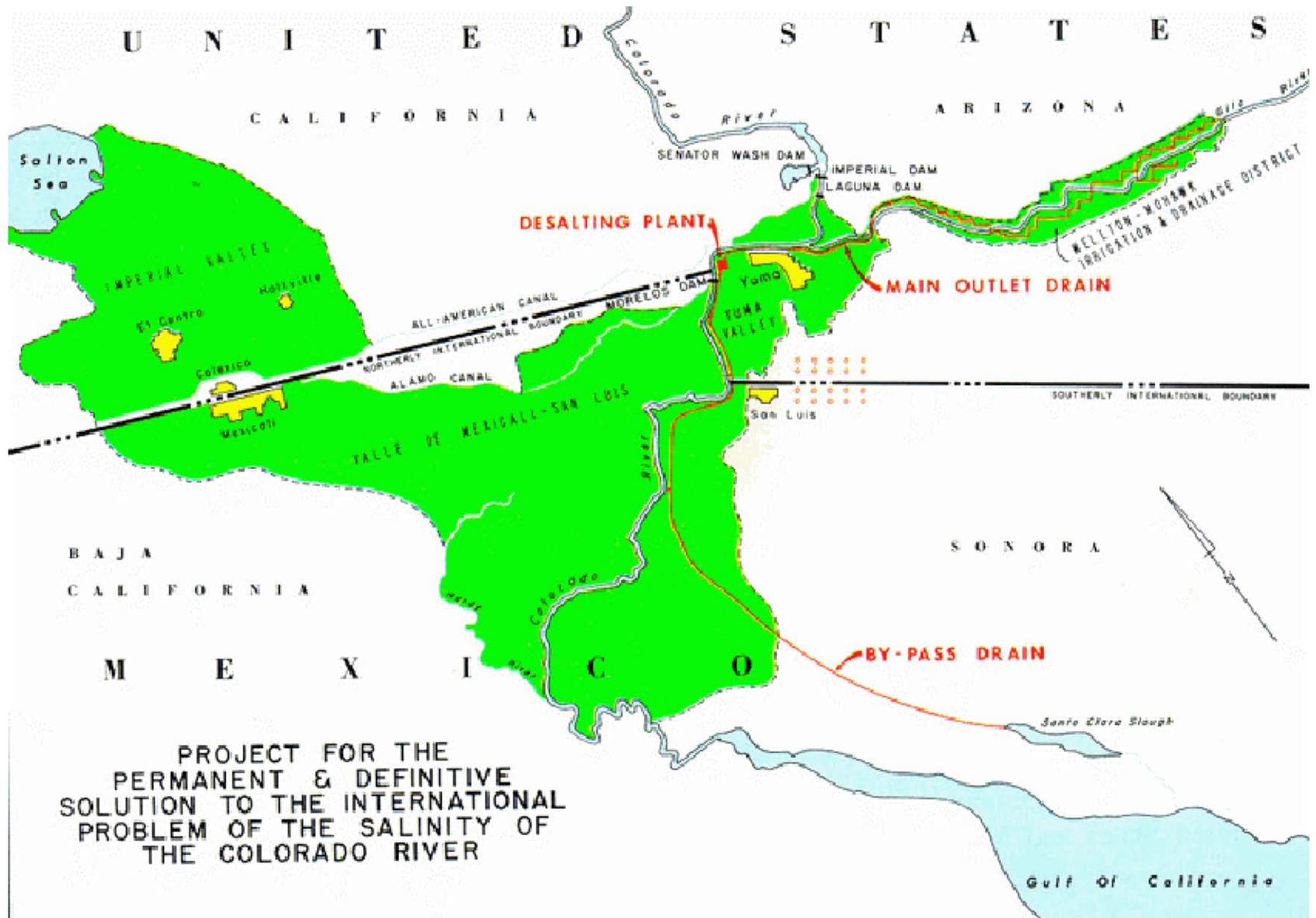
- Five Work Groups:
  - Sediment
  - Salinity
  - Carrying capacity and boundary preservation
  - Colorado River Delta
  - All-American Canal Lining
- Task force includes participation of Bureau of Reclamation, Mexico's National Water Commission (Conagua)

# SEDIMENT AT MORELOS DAM

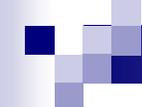


# COLORADO RIVER SALINITY CONTROL

- 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
- Wellton Mohawk Canal bypasses saline flows to the Santa Clara Slough in Mexico
- Desalination plant in the U.S. can be made operational when needed
- Additional pumps and channels at SIB reduce spikes



PROJECT FOR THE  
 PERMANENT & DEFINITIVE  
 SOLUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
 PROBLEM OF THE SALINITY OF  
 THE COLORADO RIVER



# CARRYING CAPACITY AND BOUNDARY PRESERVATION

- Studies for long-term channel capacity improvements
- Maintain the river channel as the international boundary
- Project could include new river alignments, dredging, levee work

# CARRYING CAPACITY AND BOUNDARY PRESERVATION



Colorado River below Morelos Dam

# COLORADO RIVER DELTA

- Minute 306 – Framework for U.S.-Mexico cooperation on Colorado River Delta ecosystem
- Binational Advisory Committee established
- Restoration and conservation projects
  - Advisory Committee has proposed various restoration and conservation projects
  - Projects relate to improving flow regimes to benefit ecosystems, habitat improvement, native plants, and hydraulic modeling

# ALL-AMERICAN CANAL

- Located parallel to the border
- Project to line the canal to conserve water for U.S. users
- Potential impact on groundwater seepage to Mexico
- Mexico is opposed to the canal lining
- Issue has been the subject of consultations within the IBWC

# ALL-AMERICAN CANAL



# NEW RIVER

- Flows from Mexicali north to U.S. through Calexico to Salton Sea
- Water quality a longstanding concern
- New wastewater treatment plant in Mexicali is improving water quality
- Other Proposals
  - Trash screen at border
  - Create wetlands to clean the water
  - Encase the river in Calexico



Giant Salvinia Molesta, 2003



# MAINTENANCE OF BOUNDARY MONUMENTS



# BORDER FENCING

- Plans for hundreds of miles of fence along the border
- Per 1970 Boundary Treaty, fence may not obstruct or deflect the normal or flood flows of the river
- USIBWC requires monument access, line of sight
- Stormwater concerns on land boundary



Fence project near San Luis



## ***OTHER PROJECTS***

# UPPER RIO GRANDE PROJECTS

- Canalization Project
  - Water delivery and flood control, S. NM and El Paso, TX
- Chamizal Project
  - Boundary stabilization at El Paso, TX-Cd. Juarez
- Rectification Project
  - Boundary stabilization and flood control
- Two diversion dams



American Dam, El Paso

# CHAMIZAL PROJECT



# OTHER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

- Presidio, TX
- Tijuana River
- Lower Rio Grande
  - Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, TX
  - 270 miles of levees
  - 2 diversion dams
- Upgrade of Rio Grande levees is underway

# INTERNATIONAL STORAGE DAMS

- Amistad Dam (Del Rio, TX)
- Falcon Dam (Falcon Heights, TX)
- Purposes
  - Flood Control
  - Recreation
  - Hydroelectric Power
  - Water Supply



AMISTAD DAM

# SANITATION PROJECTS

- 3 international wastewater treatment plants
  - San Diego, CA
  - Nogales, AZ
  - Nuevo Laredo, Tamps.



SBIWTP in San Diego, CA

# INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND BORDER CROSSINGS

- International bridges (34+)
- Border Crossings/Ports on the land boundary (23+)
- Crossing of utility/service lines (43+)
- Review border infrastructure projects to ensure no deflection of surface water



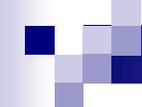
## *CITIZENS' FORUM PROGRAM*

# CITIZENS' FORUM PROGRAM

- Program established in 1999
- USIBWC has 5 Citizens' Forum Boards:
  - San Diego, CA
  - Colorado River (Yuma and Imperial Counties)
  - Southeast Arizona (Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties)
  - Upper Rio Grande (El Paso and Las Cruces area)
  - Lower Rio Grande (Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, Texas)

# PURPOSE OF THE CITIZENS' FORUM

- To facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the local community regarding ongoing and future USIBWC projects in the area
- The Citizens' Forum is intended to bring together community members enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, government agencies, irrigation districts, municipalities, etc.



# **CITIZENS' FORUM BOARD MEMBER DUTIES**

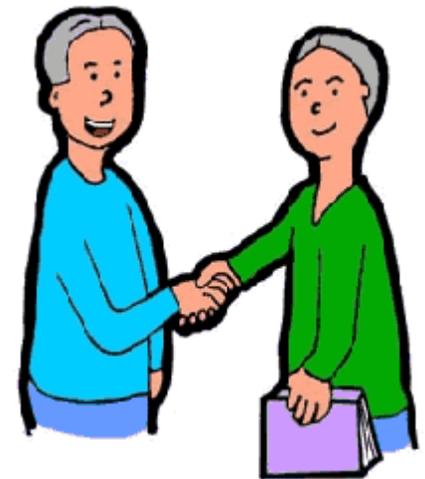
- Attend public meetings approximately four times per year
- Meetings in Yuma and Imperial Counties
- Board term is for two years
- Board members are expected to be available to the public to facilitate the exchange of information

# CITIZENS' FORUM BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

- Review and comment on technical documents and activities associated with USIBWC projects in the area
- Discuss plans and issues related to ongoing and future USIBWC projects
- CRCF is not a federal advisory board; goal is to exchange information and to receive feedback from a diversity of viewpoints
- Members serve as volunteers. There is no reimbursement for expenses.

# CITIZENS' FORUM LEADERSHIP

- Two Co-Chairs
- USIBWC Co-Chair
  - Yuma Project Manager John Turner
- Community Co-Chair
  - Selected by the board



# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

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