

THE LOWER RIO GRANDE PROJECTS

Anzalduas Dam

Location: Near the City of McAllen, Texas in Hidalgo County 11 miles upstream of the Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge.

Purpose: To assure the diversion of the U.S. share of floodwaters to the interior floodway, to enable diversion of water to Mexico's main irrigation canal, and to effect releases for downstream water users in both countries.



Anzalduas Dam

Facilities: Constructed between 1956 and 1960, Anzalduas Dam is a concrete-gated structure flanked by earth dikes. It is 524 feet long and 106 feet tall at the top of the gates. Each of the six gates is 75 feet wide. The earth dikes have a total length of 6,600 feet, 5,400 feet of which are in the United States. Operators are on duty 24 hours a day and staff from the United States and Mexico share a single control room.

Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project

Location: Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties in Texas and the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico covering 180 miles of river from Pecos, Texas to the Gulf of Mexico.

Purpose: Flood protection for residents, businesses, and farms in the United States and Mexico.

Facilities: Originally built as a system of floodways and levees in the 1930's, improvements were made in the 1950's and 1960's. After Hurricane Beulah struck the Lower Rio Grande Valley in 1967, causing serious damage to Harlingen, the McAllen Airport, and other urban and agricultural lands in Texas and Mexico, the IBWC decided to build Retamal Diversion Dam to enable diversions to a new Mexican floodway. Additionally, levees were raised and floodways modified. From 1968 to 1977, \$29 million was invested in project improvements. The U.S. portion has 270 miles of levee, 30,000 acres of interior floodway, 420 drain structures, 180 irrigation structures, and 6 bridges. Through cooperative efforts with local interests, the USIBWC has encouraged development of parks, greenways, and other recreational areas within lands dedicated to flood control. The floodway

is currently used by various public and private entities that maintain park land, golf courses, and wildlife habitat.

Morillo Drain Project

Location: Extending for 75 miles through Tamaulipas, Mexico from eight miles above Anzalduas Dam to the Gulf of Mexico.

Purpose: To reduce the salinity of the Lower Rio Grande by conveying directly to the Gulf of Mexico the highly saline irrigation return flows from the San Juan Irrigation Project in Mexico.

Facilities: Constructed by Mexico from 1966-1969, the project has a conveyance channel, pumping plant, and diversion structure. Construction, operation, and maintenance costs are shared between the United States and Mexico with the U.S. portion of costs divided between the federal government and Lower Rio Grande Valley water users.

Retamal Dam

Location: 38 miles downstream of Anzalduas Dam and 16 miles southeast of the City of McAllen, Texas.

Purpose: To limit flood flows at Brownsville-Matamoros and to enable Mexico to divert to its interior floodway its share of Rio Grande floodwaters.

Facilities: Constructed from 1971-1975, the dam is 33 feet high and 200 feet long with three gates: a central gate that is 82 feet wide by 24 feet high and 2 side gates each measuring 40 feet by 29 feet. The control house is at the center of the dam. The dam is operated jointly by the two countries.



Retamal Dam