

State Engineer Presentation to the Legislative Finance Committee

Mike A. Hamman, P.E., State Engineer

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History of the Rio Grande 1896 – 1938

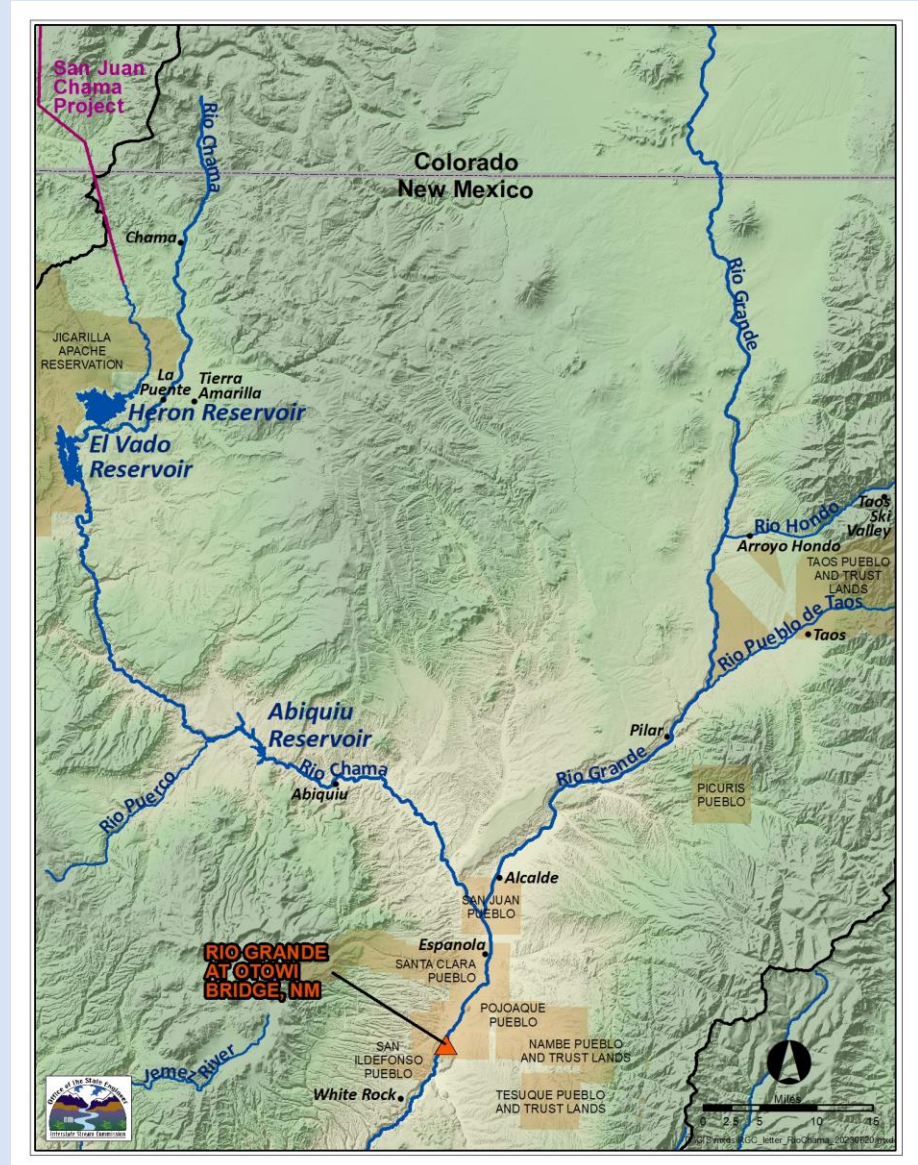
- **1896** – The Secretary of Interior issued a Rio Grande embargo on public land development in San Luis Valley, CO and in the middle valley in NM
- **1904** – National Irrigation Congress “compromise” that led to the 1905 Reclamation Act law providing for construction of Elephant Butte Dam and other features under the “Rio Grande Project”.
- **1906** – The U.S. and Mexico signed the Treaty of 1906 granting 60,000 acre feet of water to Mexico from the Rio Grande Project.
- **1916** – Elephant Butte Dam was completed and “water supply contracts” with water users for 88,000 acres (EBID) and 67,000 acres (EPCWID1) allocating up to 790,000 of annual supply on a 57/43 percentages basis.
- Development pressures in the 1920s had CO and NM pushing to lift the “embargo” and that led to compact discussions to follow the progress that occurred on the Colorado River with the seven-state compact signed in 1922.
- **1928** – U.S. leads three states in the Joint Investigations to support Compact negotiations
- **1929** – Temporary compact of “status quo” water use in CO and NM
- **1938** – Three states and the U.S sign the Rio Grande Compact
 - Indexed delivery requirements for CO and NM
 - Debit and credit allowances to address variable supplies
 - Other storage limitations to protect the Rio Grande Project

History of the Rio Grande 1938 - Present

- **1948-50** – Flood Control Acts authorized COE and BOR to build dams and levees & manage channel from Cochiti to Caballo – Low Flow Conveyance Channel
- **1950's** – Severe drought led to large debits in CO and NM in violation
 - Large-scale groundwater development in the LRG to supplement poor surface supplies
 - U.S. builds the Low Flow Conveyance Channel to assist NM with debit repayment
- **1979** – Districts assume operations and maintenance of the Project from Reclamation
- **1985** – Spill at Elephant Butte Dam cancelled all debits for CO and NM
- **1996** – Districts gain title to most Project facilities from Congress
- **2008** – The U.S., EBID and EP1 entered into an Operating Agreement that:
 - Changed Project allocation procedures to address drought & reduced delivery efficiencies
 - Created storage carryover procedures for Districts to accrue undelivered water
- **2013** – Texas files suit in U.S. Supreme Court against NM and CO
- **2021** – Special Master directs mediation after first phase of the trial
- **2023** – A proposed three state consent decree is filed with the Special Master

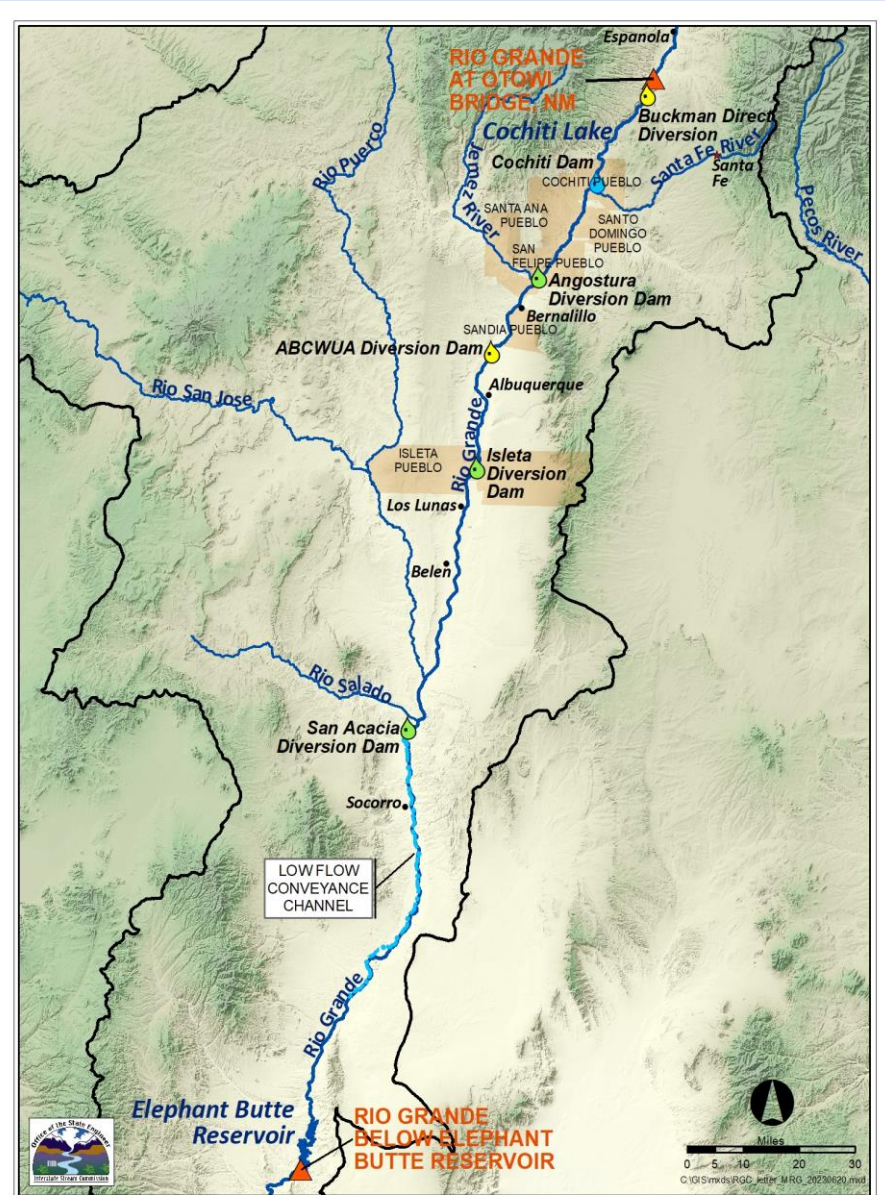
Upper Rio Grande in NM

- Under the RG Compact, all depletions that were identified in the Joint Investigations report were capped.
- San Juan Chama Project water can be used to offset new depletions above and below the Otowi gage.
- SJCP produces an average of 80,000 acre-feet annually.
- Water Settlements with Pueblos and Jicarilla Apache Nation



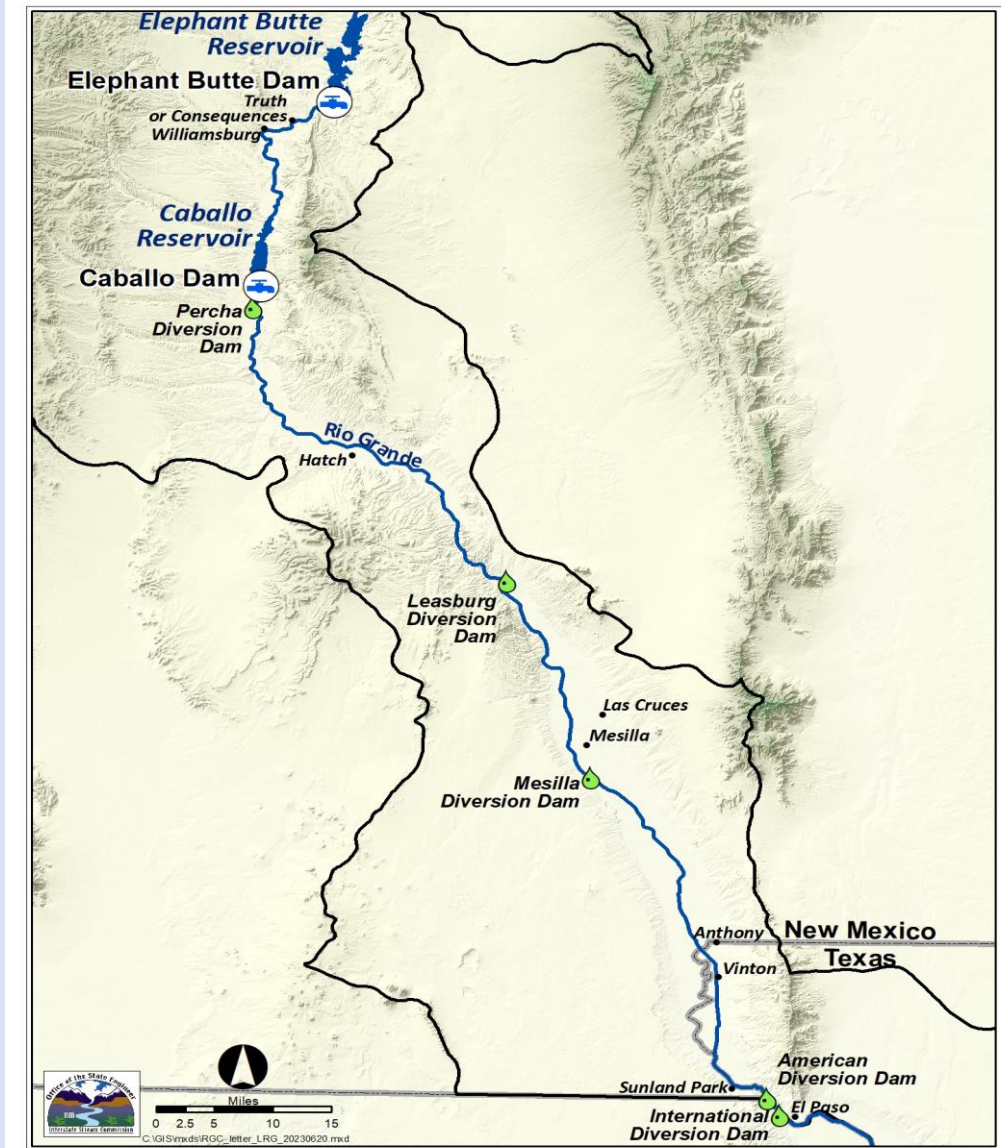
Middle Rio Grande

- The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District consolidated all 77 original diversions into four serving 60,000 acres including the six MRG Pueblos
- The LFCC was designed to salvage and deliver water to EB more efficiently
- Utilize state and federal funding to reconnect and use LFCC to assure deliveries to EB and improve habitat for endangered species



Lower Rio Grande

- EBID has three dams delivering water to 88,000 acres below Caballo Dam.
- Under the proposed consent decree, NM will have an additional Compact requirement to deliver 43% of the Project's annual allocation at the TX line
- Losses will be addressed through multiple actions to assure more surface water for NM farmers



Next Steps in the LRG

- Extensive public outreach – establishing an LRG Water Task Force approach
- Develop an extensive workplan in concert with the Task Force to prepare for Compact administration
- Recruit key staff for the Las Cruces office and ISC to implement the workplan and to take full advantage of federal funding opportunities

