

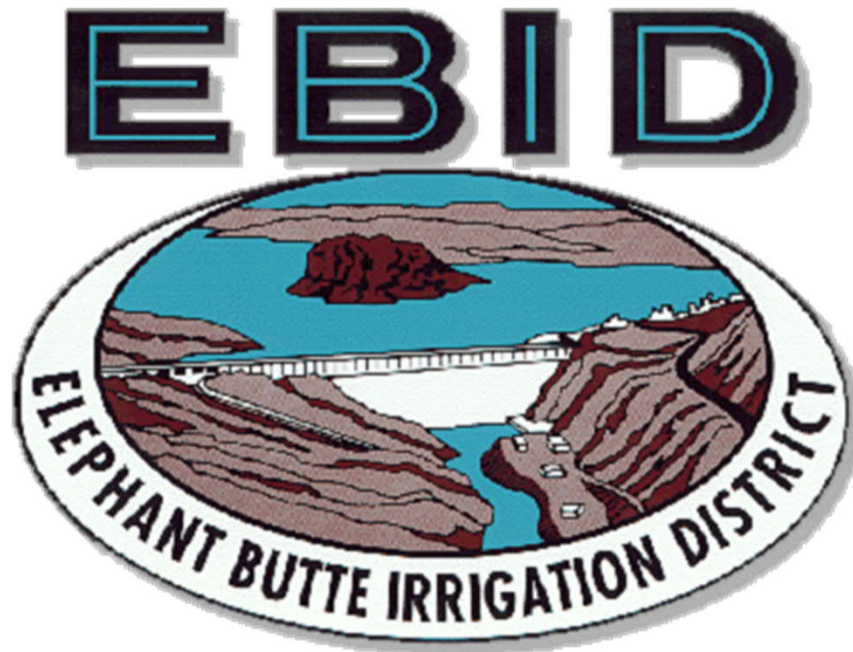
Implementing the Consent Decree for the Texas v. New Mexico Settlement

Samantha Barncastle
EBID General Counsel

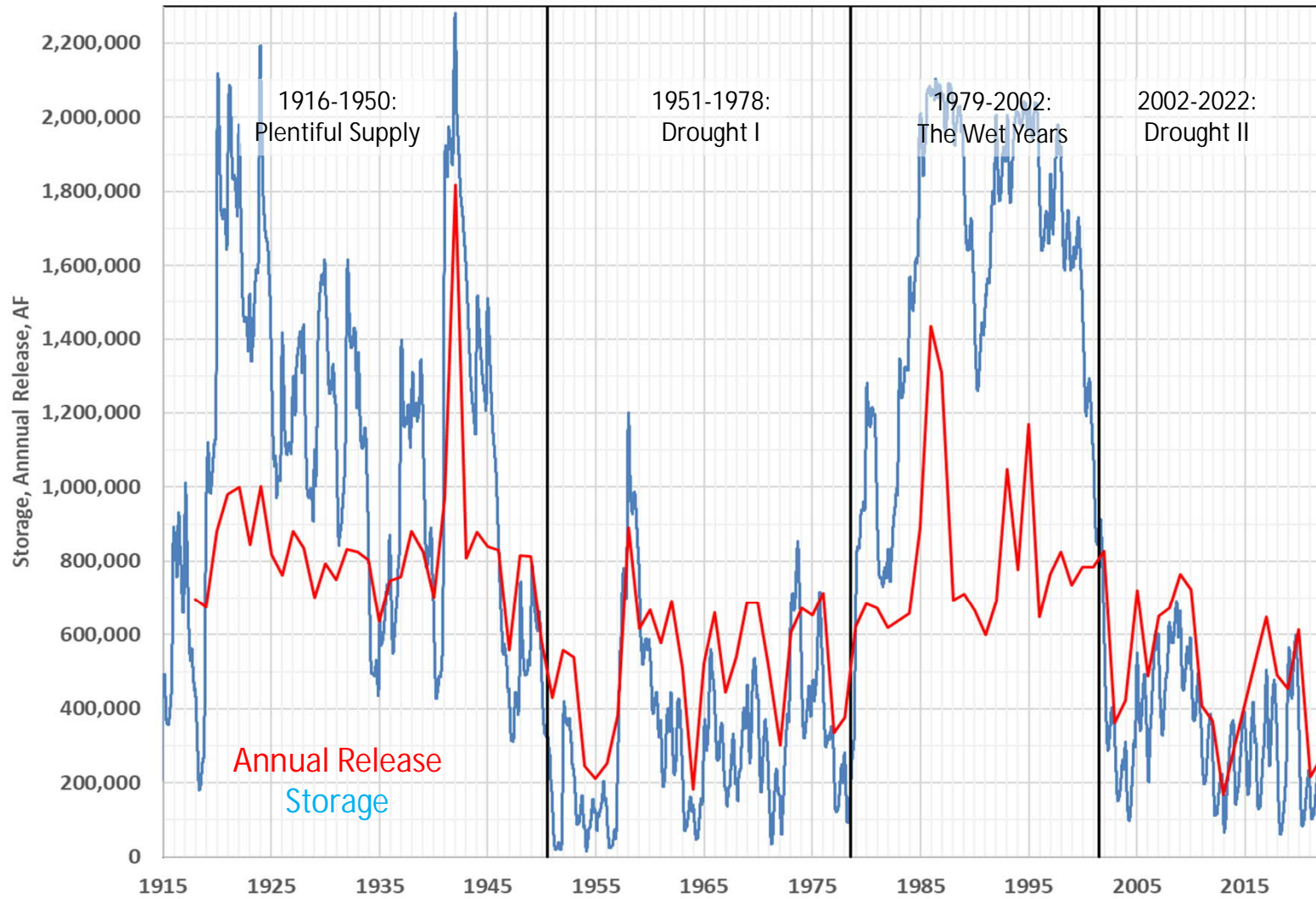
October 3, 2023

Interim Water & Natural
Resources Committee

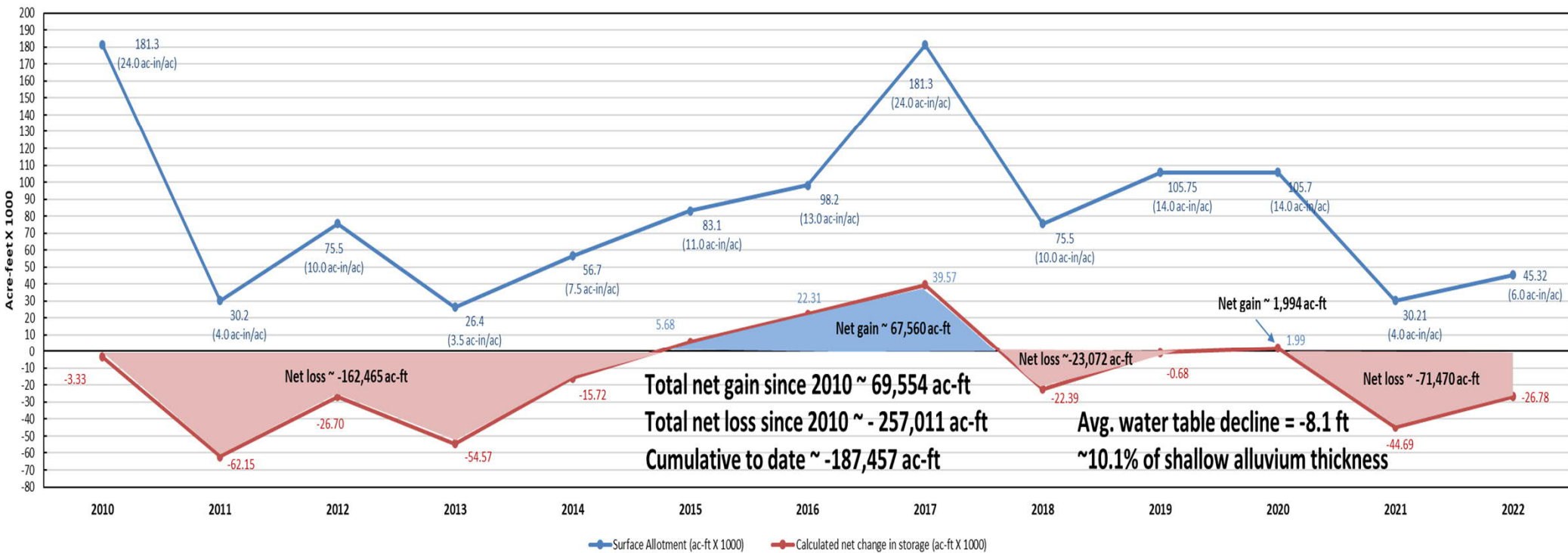
Las Cruces, NM



Rio Grande Project Hydrologic History: Elephant Butte Reservoir, 1917 - 2022

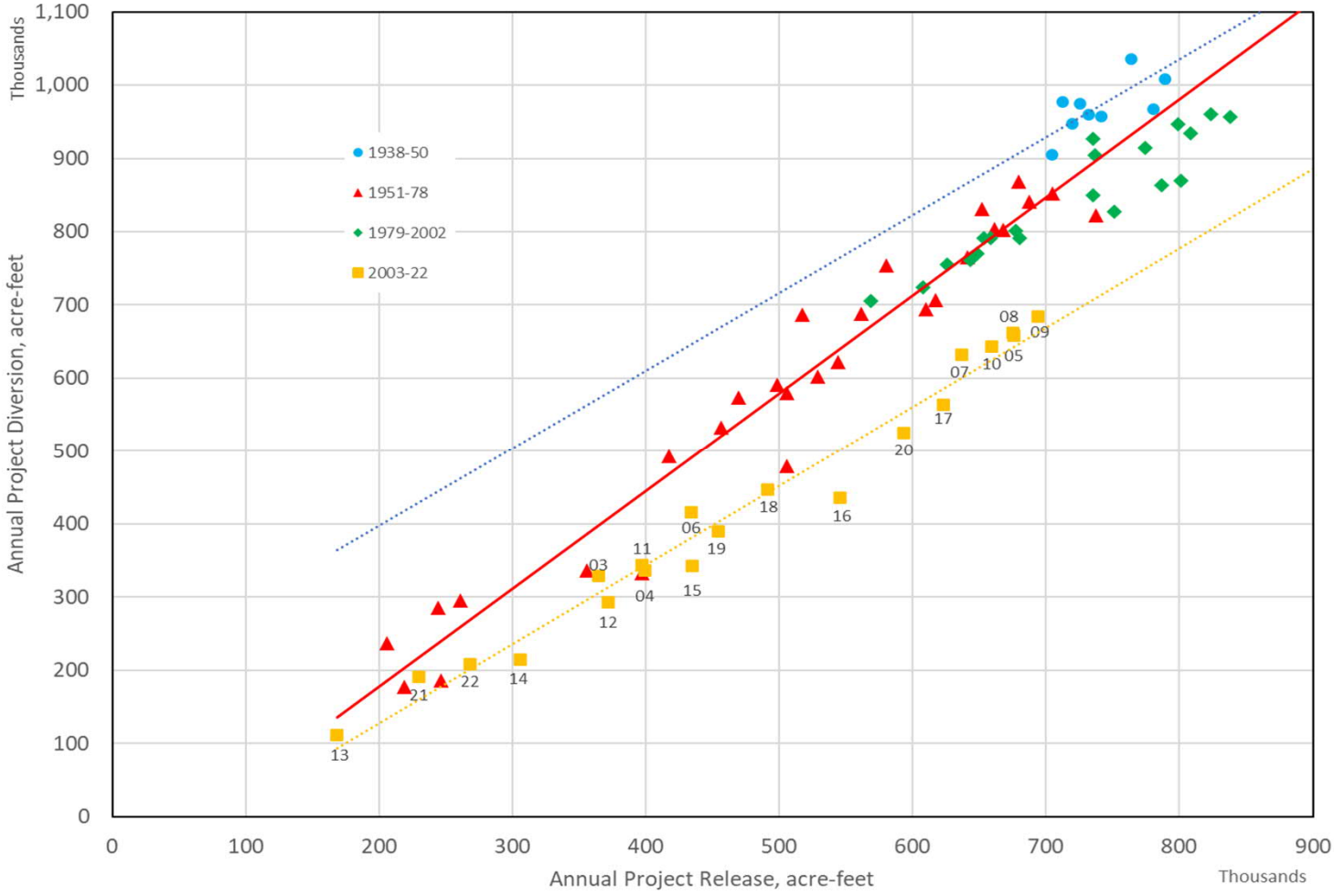


Mesilla Valley year-end net change in shallow aquifer storage from 2010 to 2022 (relative to Dec. 31, 2009 water table conditions) and the total annual pro rata EBID surface water allotment



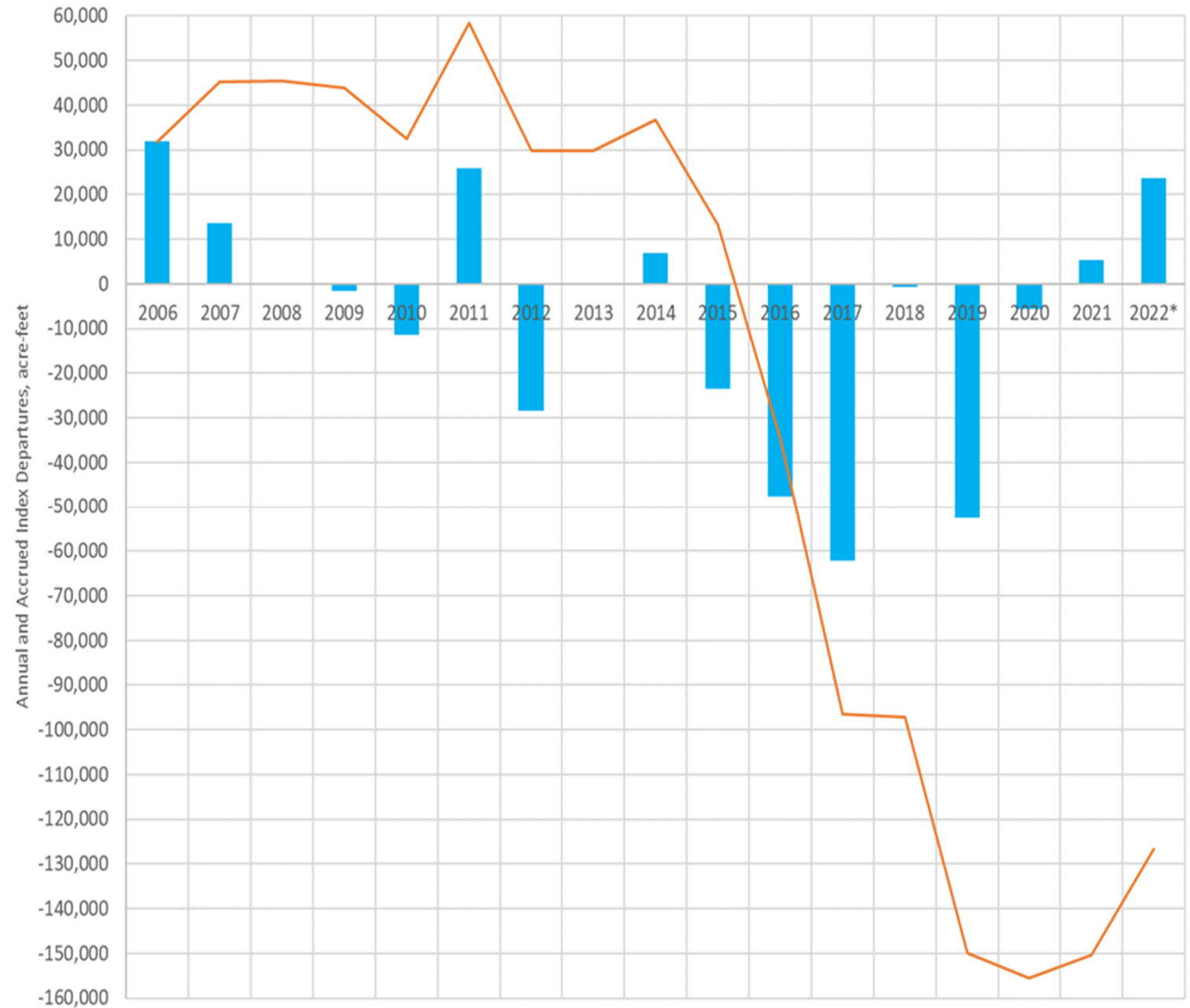
- The oscillation of groundwater depletion relative to the surface water allotment continues as expected.
- The aquifer impacts of 2021 were not compounded in 2022 at many sites as much as expected, suggesting that adaptation is occurring.
- Stormwater capture continues to be a priority as opportunities present!

Release and Diversion in the Rio Grande Project, 1938-2021



Historical Run: 2006-2022* Annual and Accrued Index Departures

- The Orange line is the Accrued annual debt—or how short we were in delivering water to the state line over the rolling accounting period
- The Blue bars are the annual debt—or how short we were in delivering water at the state line in each accounting year



EBID's response was swift

- Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) has identified several infrastructure priorities that will help it to cope with rapidly changing hydrologic and institutional conditions.
- These infrastructure measures are intended to make the most of a dwindling supply and provide means for future Rio Grande Compact compliance requirements without further impairing EBID's water supply.

RE-RECLAIMING THE WEST!

EBID's Vision for a more stable future



Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID)

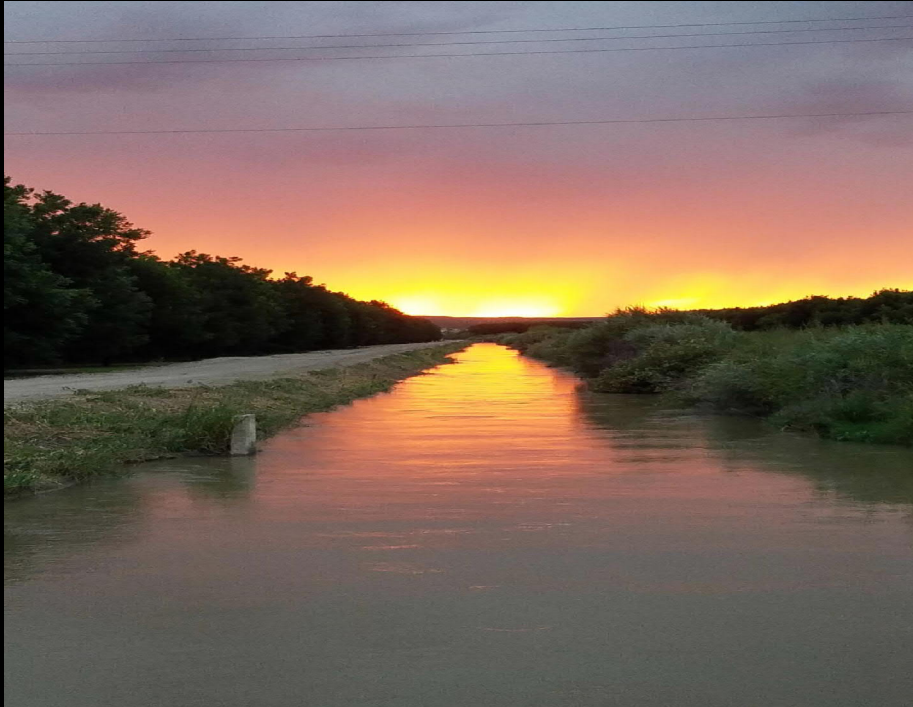
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Location: New Mexico portion of the Rio Grande Project
Sierra and Dona Ana Counties, New Mexico

PUBLIC LAW 117-169—AUG. 16, 2022

PART 3—DROUGHT RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS



SEC. 50233. DROUGHT MITIGATION IN THE RECLAMATION STATES.

(a) **DEFINITION OF RECLAMATION STATE.**—In this section, the term “Reclamation State” means a State or territory described in the first section of the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093; 43 U.S.C. 391).

(b) **APPROPRIATION.**—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary (acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation), for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$4,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2026, for grants, contracts, or financial assistance agreements, in accordance with the reclamation laws, to or with public entities and Indian Tribes, that provide for the conduct of the following activities to mitigate the impacts of drought in the Reclamation States, with priority given to the Colorado River Basin and other basins experiencing comparable levels of long-term drought, to be implemented in compliance with applicable environmental law:

An aerial photograph of a large reservoir with a dam in the foreground. The water is a deep blue, and the surrounding land is a mix of brown and green. A silhouette of a person's head in profile is overlaid on the right side of the image, facing left. The text is overlaid on the dark blue background of the reservoir.

Rio Grande Project Area – Drought Resiliency Team

- This group is a team of highly qualified water professionals who are working to identify projects that may result in a more sustainable and resilient Lower Rio Grande community.
- This group has prioritized infrastructure as the preferred mechanism for managing groundwater depletions, though other mechanisms exist (including importation of new water supplies, fallowing farmland, and priority administration requiring wells to be turned off)



RE-RECLAIMING THE WEST!

We are not only planning for implementation of the settlement from TX v. NM, we are planning for our long-term future, much like our great-grandfathers originally did over 100 years ago. This must be a community-wide effort and should not fall on the farmers alone to see it succeed!