

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
American Positions	295	295	295
Funds	33,000	33,000	45,591

Program Description

The U. S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is responsible for the overall management and administration, including planning, of Commission programs and facilities. The Commissioner manages the execution of the USIBWC mission, which is to exercise U.S. rights and obligations assumed under U.S.-Mexico boundary and water treaties and related agreements in an economical and sound manner and to develop bi-national solutions to water and boundary problems arising along the 1,952 miles of border between the U.S. and Mexico. This region encompasses the four U.S. states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California and the six Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Sonora, and Baja California. In addition, the Commissioner seeks to resolve current and anticipated boundary and water disputes between the U.S. and Mexico in the best interest of the American public.

The IBWC is made up of the U.S. Section, headquartered in El Paso, Texas, and the Mexican Section (CILA), headquartered in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. Both sections have field offices along the boundary. In accomplishing the IBWC's mission, the U.S. and Mexican Sections jointly exercise the provisions of existing treaties to improve the water quality of the Tijuana, Colorado, and Rio Grande rivers and resolve border sanitation problems. The Commission also applies the provisions of these treaties and agreements to equitably distribute the boundary rivers water to both countries and for the operations of international flood control projects along trans-boundary rivers, international reservoirs for conservation of Rio Grande water and for hydroelectric generation, and international wastewater treatment plants. The IBWC also has the responsibility to establish and maintain the boundary in the limitrophe section of the international rivers and demarcate the land boundary. The U.S and Mexican Sections develop most projects jointly, and require interdependence for full implementation.

Administration

The USIBWC is staffed to address domestic and international agreements and issues relating to the distribution and delivery of international waters in the Rio Grande and Colorado Rivers, protection of lives and property from floods along bordering communities, border demarcation, and water quality and quantity matters. The USIBWC has authority to perform its own administrative activities, including human resources management, budgeting, procurement, finance and accounting, payroll, and property. These are performed using established internal control procedures within Federal laws and regulations. The USIBWC has advanced information management service capabilities, and contracts out the data processing of the financial, payroll, property, and acquisition functions with a Financial Management Center of Excellence via a cross-service agreement.

Engineering

The Engineering Department performs technical planning, investigations/studies, designs, environmental, and project management for agency engineering programs. The Engineering Department also reviews plans, designs, studies, and environmental documentation for non-IBWC projects, such as construction of

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new international bridges and ports of entry and pipelines for transborder conveyance of liquefied petroleum and natural gas, on the U.S.-Mexico border with potential trans-boundary impacts on IBWC projects/mission.

General engineering activities include:

- Operational and long-range agency project planning and studies;
- Development, coordination/management, and review of infrastructure projects in areas including: hydraulic, flood control, sanitation, and bridges;
- Environmental management documentation for mission activities in flood control, sanitation, facilities operations, and construction;
- Water quality monitoring and inventory programs of boundary waters; and
- Water resource studies to include surface and groundwater assessments.

Operations & Maintenance (O&M)

The Operations Department operates and maintains all river and reservoir structures, hydroelectric power plants, and international wastewater treatment facilities. It is responsible for demarcating the border between the U.S. and Mexico by maintaining the integrity of boundary markers along the land boundary, river channels along international river boundaries, and boundary buoys on international reservoirs. The Operations Department also conducts all international water accounting in close coordination with Mexico.

Justification of Request

The FY 2012 budget request of \$45,591,000 for the Salaries and Expenses activities reflects an increase of \$12.591 million above the FY 2010 Actual level. This increase reflects a \$660,000 current services adjustment for domestic inflation and the following programmatic investments describe below.

Administration

The Administration activity entails joint administration of the provisions of existing treaties and agreements for the solution of international boundary and water problems. It also involves reaching new agreements, subject to approval by both Governments, to mitigate problems arising along the boundary before they become serious international issues. The primary functions are administering the operation and maintenance of ten international boundary and water project offices, negotiating agreements and providing recommendations to both Governments for solutions to boundary and water problems, and supporting and controlling new construction projects approved by the two Governments. Administration Department plans for FY 2012 include:

- Implement the provisions of existing treaties and bi-national agreements;
- Pursue compliance and implementation of applicable domestic laws, mandates, and regulations; and
- Ensure full implementation of policies and procedures, which conform to federal statutes and regulations by using the Commissioner's executive staff to respond to complex international negotiations and development of international agreements and provide guidance on all matters related to the full scope and operations of the USIBWC;

Engineering

The Engineering activity funds one Principal Engineer, a number of other engineers, environmental specialists, and technical and clerical staff who are responsible for the development, design, management, and supervision of projects and for conducting surveys, studies, and investigations needed to address international boundary and water problems with Mexico in accordance with IBWC treaties and agreements. Engineering Department plans for FY 2012 include:

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- Continue programs to monitor and study the quality and flow volumes of the waters in the New River and Alamo River (in southern California near Calexico), the Colorado River (near Yuma, AZ), and the Rio Grande watershed in cooperation with U.S. and Mexican agencies;
- Continue compliance studies and monitoring of three international wastewater treatment plants at the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant, the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Nuevo Laredo Wastewater Treatment Plant; and
- Continue the design management and construction management of levee/floodwall improvements in the Upper, Presidio, and Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Systems.

O&M

The Operations activity funds one Principal Engineer, a number of other engineers and technical staff, clerical staff, and wage grade employees who are responsible for the O&M of USIBWC facilities along the entire U.S.-Mexico border, which includes ten field offices.

Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant (NIWTP) O&M contract: \$2,400,000

The NIWTP was upgraded in response to a consent decree mandate arising from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit violation. The plant upgrade requires increased levels of O&M due to differing types of treatment required to meet permit standards. In particular, the upgraded plant produces greater volumes of sludge, thereby requiring costly disposal services, previously not required. In addition, the new plant requires increased use of some chemicals and the employment of additional materials such as carbon (not previously needed), and increased power usage.

South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) Operations: \$6,851,000

A secondary treatment facility currently under construction is in response to Public Law 106-457, The Tijuana River Valley Estuary and Beach Sewage Cleanup Act of 2000, as amended by Public Law 108-425, to address secondary treatment of Tijuana sewage and to bring the existing SBIWTP into compliance with the Clean Water Act and its discharge permit. The FY 2012 request is needed to fund the O&M service contract and other operational costs associated with the new facility. This funding is necessary to comply with the NPDES permit requirements and consent decree.

Flood Control O&M Requirements: \$2,200,000

Increased funding will address required O&M functions across the 10 field offices and to address deferred maintenance from prior years, which require immediate attention. These include sediment removal from channels, performing scheduled maintenance as required in order to maximize the benefit of the on-going levee rehabilitation efforts, performing required maintenance of structures on the levees to ensure the system is at maximum operation and responds as intended during flood events, and performing the required levee resurfacing, grading, and silt/vegetation removal. Current funding levels represent approximately 40 percent of funding requirements needed to perform the required annual O&M of over 500 miles of levees and floodways, and related structures.

O&M Operations Support: \$480,000

The request will partially support the O&M functions for the Falcon and Amistad Dam and the Yuma Field Office. Increased funding is required at these locations to address overall O&M funding needs.

Operations Department plans in FY 2012 include:

- Maintain all flood control, wastewater treatment, hydroelectric, and water storage projects in fully operational condition;
- Continue with the O&M of two international wastewater treatment plants and ensure compliance with all recurring maintenance requirements;

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- Continue implementation of the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) program , which involves installation of high priority security equipment per CIP agency requirements;
- Continue ongoing realty program for Real Property, License, Leases, and Permits to include internal processing, coordination, and review for all proposed projects on USIBWC property and easement acquisition for Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Program with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wildlife Corridor; and
- Continue the Boundary Demarcation Program.

Funds by Program Activity (\$ in thousands)

Activities	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
Administration	6,825	6,825	7,554
Engineering	2,605	2,605	2,933
Operations and Maintenance	23,570	23,570	35,104
Total	33,000	33,000	45,591

Funds by Object Class (\$ in thousands)

	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
1100 Personnel Compensation	13,235	13,235	14,329
1200 Personnel Benefits	4,236	4,236	4,690
2100 Travel & Trans of Persons	621	621	574
2200 Transportation of Things	594	594	577
2300 Rents, Comm & Utilities	2,480	2,480	4,086
2400 Printing & Reproduction	25	25	44
2500 Other Services	9,463	9,463	18,378
2600 Supplies and Materials	2,093	2,093	1,592
3100 Personal Property	5	5	1,120
4100 Grants, Subsidies & Contrb	248	248	201
Total	33,000	33,000	45,591