Managing Drought in El Paso

Regional Water Resources

- Elephant Butte Dam
- Rio Grande
- Mesilla Bolson
- Hueco Bolson
- Ciudad Juárez
- West Texas Aquifers

Maps showing regions in Mexico and the United States, including El Paso, New Mexico, and Texas.
Diversified Resources


- Surface Water
- Reclaimed Water
- Groundwater
- Desalination
- Conservation
- Importation

Rio Grande History

- 1906 Treaty between United States and Mexico divides the water
- 1938 Compact among Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas divides U.S. water
Allocation of Rio Grande Water
Full Release Total = 792,000 Acre-Feet

- U.S. Irrigation Districts 662,000 ac-ft
- El Paso 70,000 ac-ft
- Mexico Irrigation 60,000 ac-ft

Drought History

Only 3 of the past 16 years has runoff into Elephant Butte been above average.
2012 Drought Summary

- EPWU received reduced river water allocation
  - 32,500 AF compared to usual 70,000 AF
- River releases began late and ended early
- River gates at Caballo closed in the middle of season
  - 2 river water treatment plants shut down
  - 2 week critical conservation period in May
Rio Grande Runs Dry
May 12, 2012

Available Water at Elephant Butte for the Region

- Beginning of Season: 11% of capacity
- End of Season: 0.2% of capacity
Increased Conservation & Desalination

Managing Drought

Emergency Management Rule

Surface Water Strategies

Groundwater Strategies

Reclaimed Water

Ground and Surface Water Treatment Plants

Surface Water Plants

Groundwater Plants

Upper Valley Water Treatment Plant

Robertson & Umbenhauer Water Treatment Plant

Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant

Jonathan Rogers Water Treatment Plant

EL PASO, TEXAS

NEW MEXICO

Clúd Juárez

Río Grande

Franklin Mountains

Military Reservation
2013 and Beyond

- 6 new wells on-line by April 2013
- Re-drilling 9 wells in lower valley
- Water main projects to carry groundwater to central and downtown areas that heavily rely on river water
  - NE/Central Drought Project
  - Paisano Project
- North Central Reclaimed water project
2013 and Beyond (continued)

- Conservation Campaign Objectives:
  - Decrease Water Consumption
  - Increase Awareness of Water Conservation
  - Brand El Paso as a Conservation Leader

Summary

- We are prepared for drought
- We will call for continued voluntary water conservation
- If the snowpack and runoff is very low, we may have to request mandatory restrictions for a short period of time to meet demand
Contact Information

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