



BROWNSVILLE
PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Information current as of September 2026

Banco Morales Reservoir Surplus Water Impoundment Project

Project Overview

The Banco Morales Reservoir project will add a new off-channel reservoir with a capacity of 400 million gallons, increasing BPUB's total storage capacity to over 616 million gallons. This reservoir will capture surplus flows from the Lower Rio Grande that would otherwise flow into the Gulf of America, ensuring a reliable municipal water supply during drought conditions and Mexico's delivery shortfalls under the 1944 Water Treaty.

Planning-level cost estimate: Approximately \$39.2 million. Project costs are subject to refinement as planning, design, funding, procurement, and market conditions evolve. For the most current project information, visit www.bpub.com/projects.

Grant funding: \$34,558,000 awarded by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on February 26, 2026.

Technical Specifications

Location: Between the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) levee system and Brownsville's city levee, adjacent to Water Treatment Plant No. 1.

Infrastructure Features

- Composite high-density polyethylene (HDPE) liner system to prevent seepage.
- The sluice gate inlet, with a capacity of 450 cubic feet per second, will capture surplus flows from Falcon Dam releases.

Strategic Impact

- Ensures a reliable supply during Mexico's water delivery shortfalls, with a filling probability of approximately 92% annually.
- Reduces marginal water costs to \$412/acre-foot compared to \$1,027/acre-foot for new allocations from Falcon Dam releases.

