



BROWNSVILLE
PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

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. The total estimated cost for the project is \$38.69 million. The Texas Water Development Board awarded BPUB \$34,558,000 in grant funding Feb. 26, 2026.

Technical Specifications

Location: Located between the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) levee system and Brownsville's city levee, adjacent to Water Treatment Plant 1.

Infrastructure Features

- Composite High-Density Polyethylene 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.

