Final Report Contract #1913582343 Concrete Lining of Franklin Feeder Canal (Partidor to San Eli Lateral) Texas Water Development Board Agricultural Water Conservation System Improvements El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1





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1. Executive Summary and Project Location

Texas Water Development Board Contract No. 1913582343 with El Paso Water Improvement District No. 1 (EPCWID) for an Agricultural Water Conservation Project titled "Concrete Lining of Franklin Feeder Canal (Partidor to San Eli Lateral). The Project was completed in March of 2024.

The Project was located in southeast El Paso County, Texas, in El Paso Valley, partially in the City of El Paso and partially in the City of Socorro. Below is an aerial image of the Project location; the Engineering Drawings in Appendix D provide a detailed map.



Figure 1: Project Location

2. Introduction and Background

The Project is located in Far West Texas (Region E Water Planning Region) in El Paso County and is adjacent to the United States – Mexico border. El Paso County has an arid climate and receives an average annual rainfall of about 8 inches, with net evaporation exceeding 70 inches. The region faces unique water challenges characterized by an agricultural system that is a century old, prolonged drought conditions, a growing population and a growing sister city in Mexico with shared groundwater and surface water supplies, interstate and international treaties, and interstate litigation that may impact the District's water supply from the Rio Grande.

The El Paso County Water Improvement District (EPCWID) provides water from the Rio Grande for 69,010 acres of water rights lands divided into more than 30,000 water user accounts. Active irrigation users include approximately 325 large farms and 4,500 irrigated tracts of two acres or less (small-tracts). EPCWID delivers water to an average of 49,000 acres of cropland using 350 miles of canals, 269 miles of drains, 60 wells, and over 2,200 turnouts.

The City of El Paso currently has contract rights for approximately 70,000 acre-feet of raw water in years with a full allocation from the federal Rio Grande Project. Rio Grande Project water meets approximately 50% of municipal demand for a population of over 800,000.

All construction was within the existing canal right-of-way, which was 100% previously disturbed earth. The photographs of the canal prior to construction were submitted to the Texas Historical Commission in accordance with an existing agreement between the Commission and the District.

3. Estimate of the Amount of Water Salvaged by Project

The total length of the new concrete lining for this project was approximately 5,500 feet or 1.04 miles. A ponding test was done on the Riverside Canal in 2020, located approximately 1,000 feet upstream of the Project heading. The steady-state seepage rate for the Riverside Canal test was 6.7 af/day/mile for a wetted perimeter of approximately 80 feet. The wetted perimeter of the Franklin Feeder is approximately 47 feet or 59% of the Riverside Canal perimeter. The prorated reduction in seepage rate based on the ratios of the wetted perimeter for the Franklin Feeder Canal is 3.9 af/day/mile. The total seepage rate of the portion of the Franklin Feeder Canal within the Project is 4.1 af/day (3.9 x 1.04).

Franklin Feeder conveys water diverted from the Rio Grande and treated sewage effluent discharge into Riverside Canal approximately 4,000 feet upstream of the Project. This results in the Franklin Feeder having flow for 10 months a year, even in drought years. December and

January are months when the flow is typically removed from the canal for maintenance. The completed concrete canal has a small amount of seepage that is estimated to be less than 0.1



af/day. The annual amount of seepage salvaged by the Project is estimated to be 1,200 af/yr or $(4.1 - 0.1) \ge 303$ days/year.



4. Construction Methods

The project consisted of common heavy construction methods used in the United States to concrete line an irrigation canal. The concrete placement uses a shotcrete pump and a specialized concrete mixture reinforced with poly fibers. This method is detailed in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation report "Canal-lining Demonstration Project Year 10 Final Report" (2002 USBR).

5. Construction Materials

The primary materials used in the project were soil and concrete. The soil was used to narrow the width of the existing earthen canal, and the concrete was used to line the new flow prism. As discussed in Section 2 of this report, the concrete was a special mixture designed for concrete lining irrigation canals using a concrete pump (shotcrete). The specifications for the mixture are:

Concrete batching and delivery shall meet requirements and specifications ASTM C94 and ACI304R as applicable, and the following specifications:

Application: Pumpable mix for shotcrete application of 4" irrigation canal pavement

Cement: 7 sack minimum Type I/II low alkali cement content per cubic yard
Fly Ash: Class F fly ash content of 20% to 30% per cubic yard
Specified Strength: 2,600 P.S.I at 7 days and 4,000 P.S.I. at 28 days
Fiber: 3.0 lbs. per yard of 1.5" fibrillated fiber meeting ASTM C1116 and all specifications of Master Builder Solution Masterfiber F70
Superplasticizer: 1 to 2%, to be added in field as specified by the Construction Supervisor.
Air Entrainment: 6% air, plus or minus 1.5%
Slump: Maximum of 5-inch to be determined in the field by the Construction Supervisor
Aggregate: 3/8" minus

Retarder: Must meet ASTM C-494 Type B and all specifications of Euclid - Retarder 100 in a quantity and added at a location as determined by the Construction Supervisor.

Other materials used in the project include concrete curing compound, lumber and staking for concrete curbs, forms and turnouts valves for irrigation turnouts that had to be relocated, and miscellaneous construction supplies.

6. Summary of Project Results

The project completed the concrete lining of 5,500 linear feet of the Franklin Feeder Canal in El Paso County, Texas. The estimated annual water savings are 1,200 acre-feet per year. The project was documented in a video prepared by the Texas Water Development Board in August 2024 (<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_bwUUc2gEI</u>). The video includes interviews with two of the District's farmers (stakeholders) serviced by the Franklin Feeder Canal.

7. References

2002 USBR, Swihart, Jay. Canal-lining Demonstration Project Year 10 Final Report. Denver, Colo.: Boise, Idaho: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Technical Service Center, Civil Engineering Services, Materials Engineering Research Laboratory; Pacific Northwest Region, Water Conservation Center.

APPENDIX A - Project Photographs



Earthwork and narrowing of the existing canal looking downstream from the starting location of the project



Completed earthwork and narrowing of the existing canal looking downstream from the starting location of the project



Placement of geotextile fabric canal looking downstream from the starting location of the project



Completed replacement turnout structure



Placement and finishing of shotcrete liner on the right bank of the canal



Canal in operation after construction completed

B – Example Materials Testing Results



SHOTCRETE COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH TEST RESULTS REPORT

ASTM C 42, C 1140

4606 Titanic Avenue El Paso, TX 79904 Ph. 915-771-7766 Fax 915-771-7786

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CQC Testing and Engineering, L.L.C. TBPE Firm Registration No. F-10632 **C** – Engineering Drawings Cover Page

DRAWINGS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF

Franklin Feeder Canal Improvements

PREPARED FOR

EL PASO COUNTY WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

SHEET TITLE NO.

COVER SHEET

GENERAL NOTES

- OVERALL LAYOUT
- PLAN AND PROFILE STA 0+00 TO STA 6+00
- PLAN AND PROFILE STA 6+00 TO STA 12+00
- PLAN AND PROFILE STA 12+00 TO STA 18+00
- PLAN AND PROFILE STA 18+00 TO STA 24+00
- PLAN AND PROFILE STA 24+00 TO STA 30+00
- PLAN AND PROFILE STA 30+00 TO STA 36+00
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- PLAN AND PROFILE STA 48+00 TO STA 54+00 12
- PLAN AND PROFILE STA 54+00 TO END 13.
- 14. TYPICAL CANAL CROSS SECTION
- 15. CANAL DETAILS - EXISTING STRUCTURES

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16. MISCELANEOUS DETAILS

REMOVED DUPLICATED NOTES ON SHEET 2

REVISED SHEET 2 FOR NOTES

REVISION

9/21/23

8/17/23

DATE

NO



PROJECT LOCATION MAP NTS



El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1

P.O. Box 749 | 13247 Alameda Ave. Clint, Texas 79836-0749 (915) 872-4000 | Fax (915) 851-0091 | www.epcwid.org

APPROVED BY:

SUBMITTED BY:

EPCWID District Engineer

for E Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1



9/21/2023

Sheet 1 of 16

FRANKLIN FEEDER CANAL IMPROVEMENTS