



Annual Stormwater Presentation FY2024-2025

June 24, 2025

Why the Stormwater Utility was created



After the devastation of Storm 2006, the City created the Municipal Drainage Utility System and asked El Paso Water to manage it.

- ✓ Develop a master plan
- ✓ Create a dedicated funding source through stormwater fees
- ✓ Execute Capital Improvement Plan



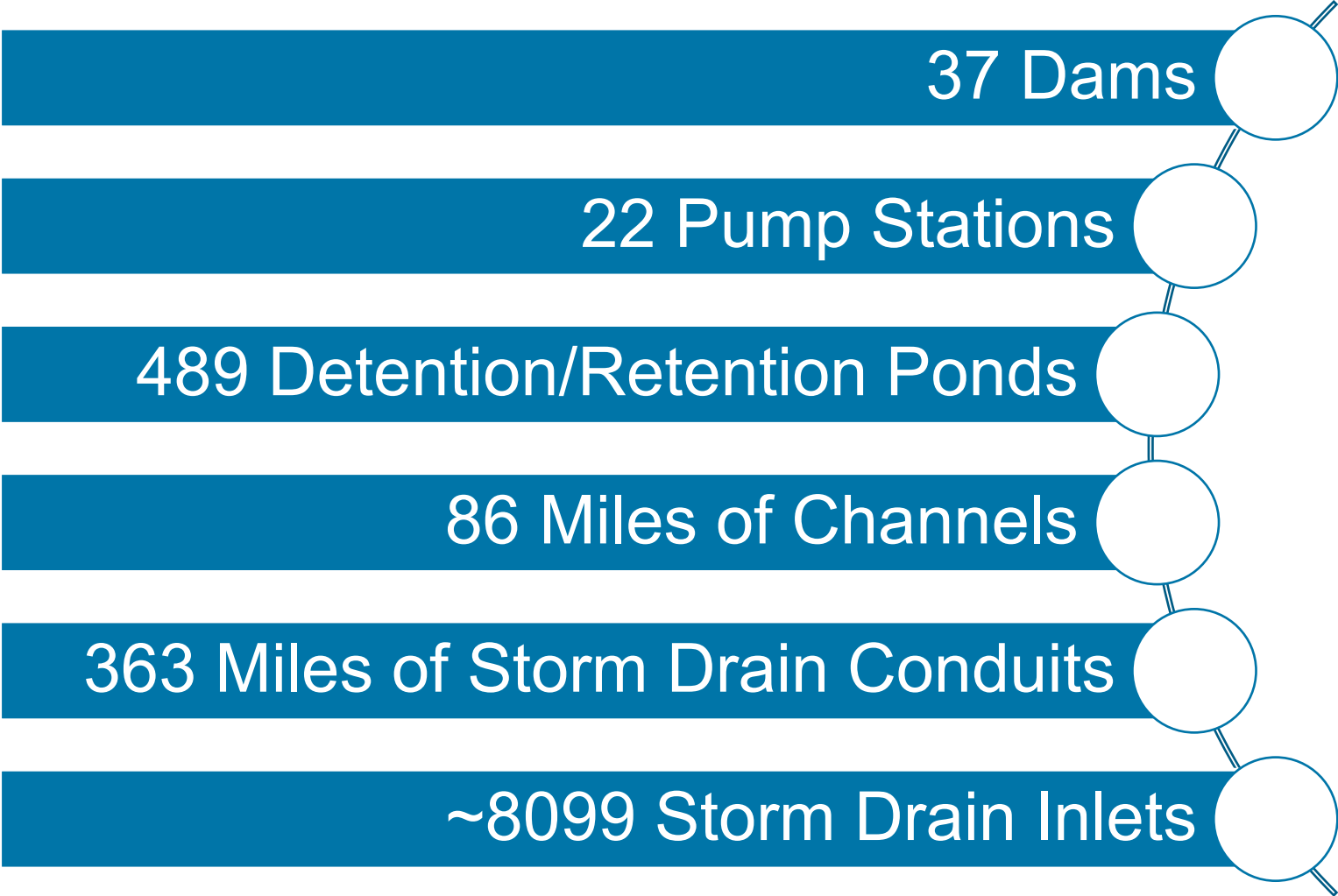
Division of Authorities

City of El Paso (retained):

- Zoning and floodplain regulation
- Floodplain administrator duties
- Floodplain mapping
- FEMA and community rating system,
- Road, street, alley and bridge construction and maintenance
- Subdivision plans and building permits

EPWater Stormwater:

- To administer Stormwater revenue
- Steward of assets transferred by the City
- Operations and Maintenance
- Execute Capital Improvement Program
- Preservation of open space in its natural state



37 Dams

22 Pump Stations

489 Detention/Retention Ponds

86 Miles of Channels

363 Miles of Storm Drain Conduits

~8099 Storm Drain Inlets

Stormwater Assets

Policy guides the stormwater utility

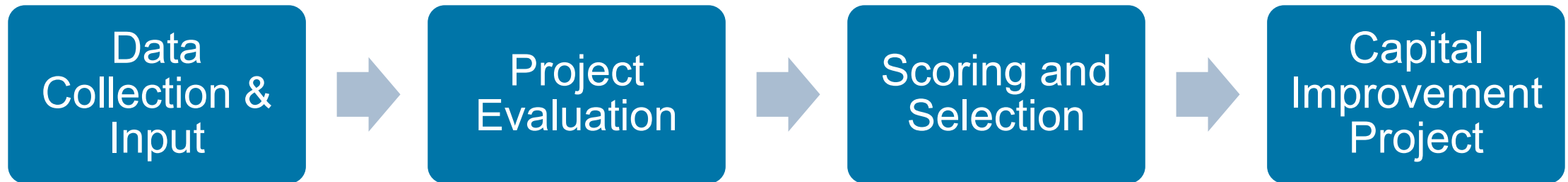
The Stormwater Utility uses established policies and processes to ensure that capital improvement projects—like new storm drains, detention ponds, or channel upgrades—are prioritized fairly, efficiently and in the best interest of the community.

These policies are based on a combination of factors, including:

- Public Safety
- Flood risk
- Infrastructure Condition
- Environmental Impact
- Land acquisition needs
- Cost-effectiveness
- Funding availability

By following these guidelines, the utility can make objective decisions that focus resources where they're needed most.

Process ensures efficiency & transparency



This process is designed to ensure that limited funds are used responsibly and decisions are transparent and justifiable to the public. This process also helps explain why some projects move forward before others.

Public input has always been important for stormwater projects



- The Stormwater Utility convened a stormwater task force this year with the goal of reviewing and revising the utility's capital improvement plan.
- Previous similar task forces were convened twice: in 2008 to review the Stormwater Master Plan and set priorities; and again in 2017 to re-evaluate priorities in light of new flood control needs.
- This year's task force has met over three engagements to tour the stormwater system, review and understand the projects, and revise and re-evaluate priorities based on existing needs and available resources.

2025 Stormwater Task Force

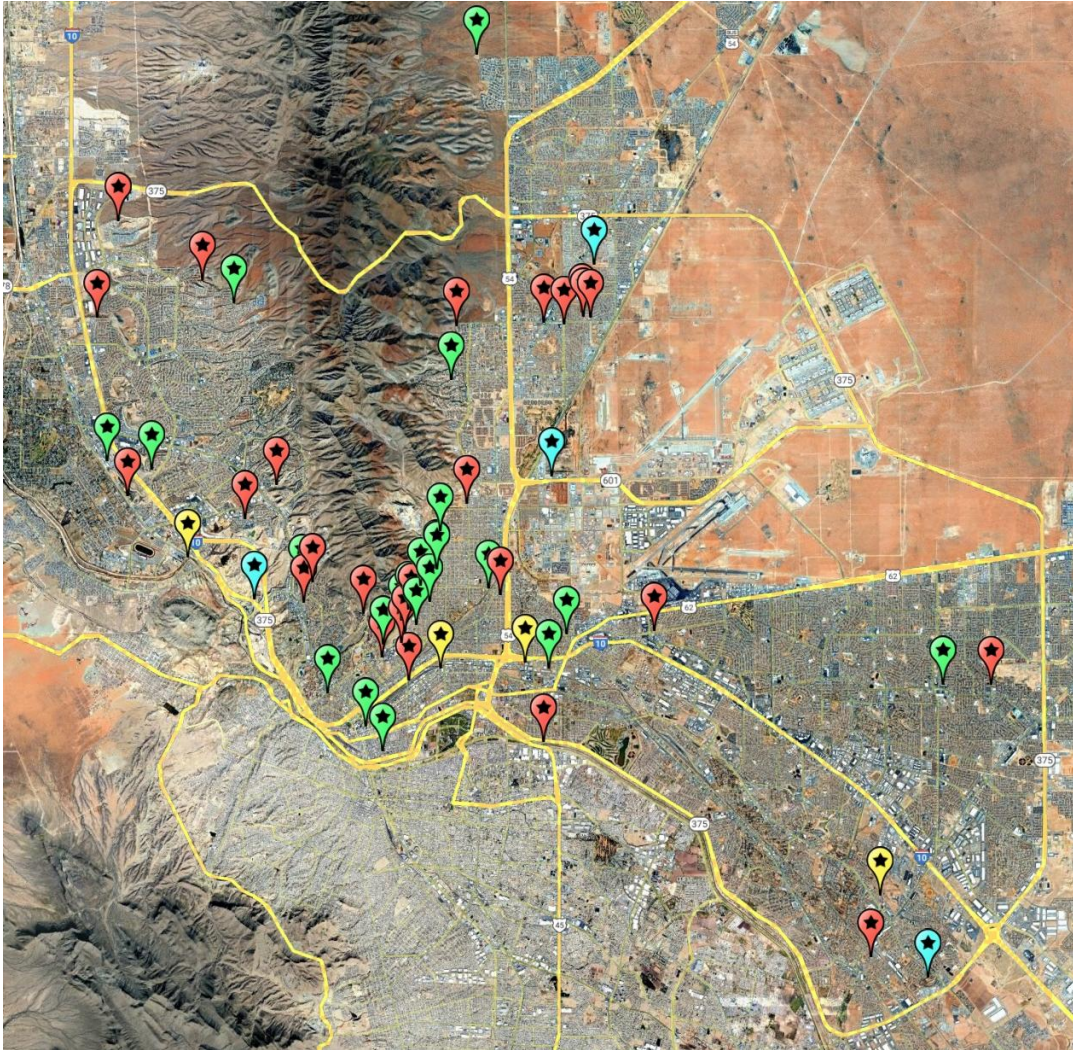
The task force includes members from several El Paso communities:

- Neighborhoods
- Historic Districts
- Business
- Engineering
- Development
- Real Estate
- Open Space



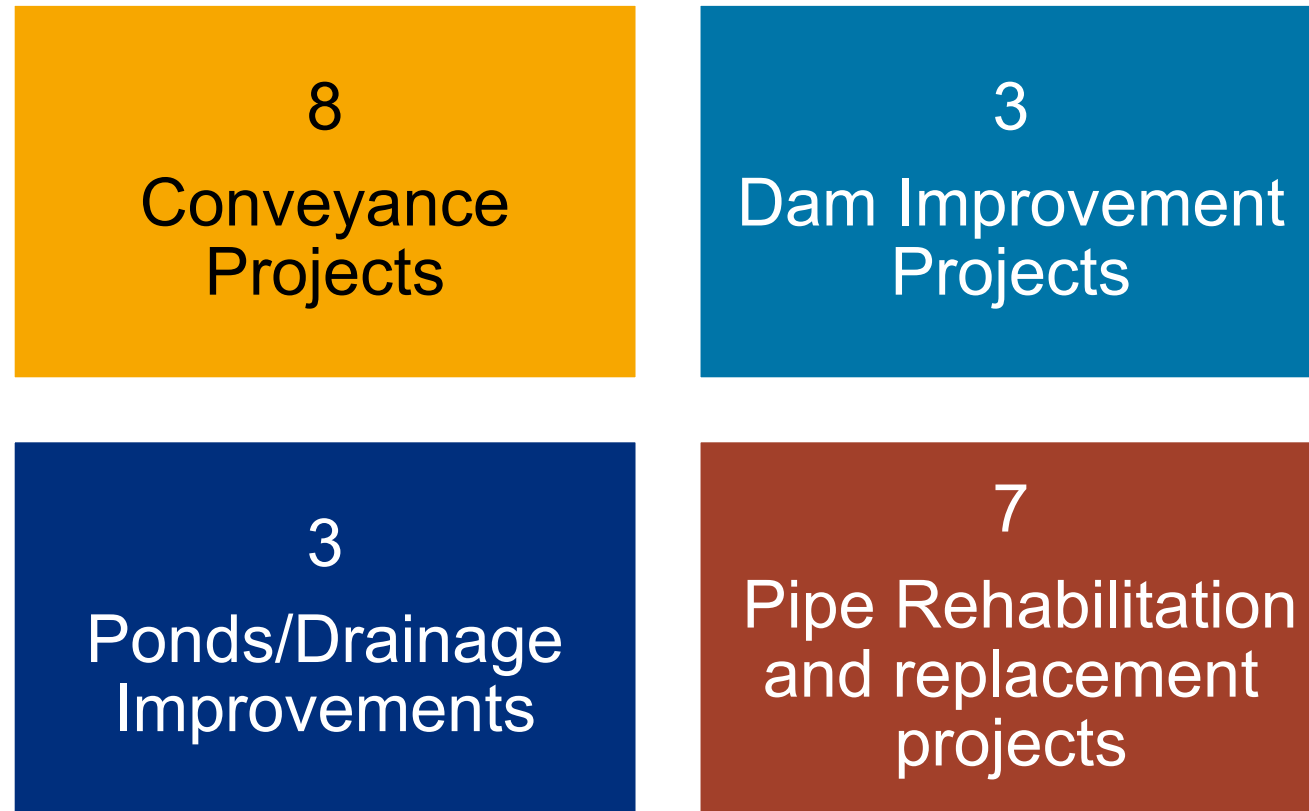
Stormwater Projects – Completed and Planned

Stormwater Program Highlights - FY24



-  21 Projects Completed (FY 24-25)
-  4 Projects In Construction
-  4 Upcoming Construction Projects
-  26 Projects in Planning and Design

Total of 21 Projects completed





Addressing Aging Infrastructure

Canterbury Trail Improvements

Joint with City - *Addressing aging infrastructure*



Channel Reconstruction



District 8

Coors Channel Improvements – *Addressing aging infrastructure*

Before



After

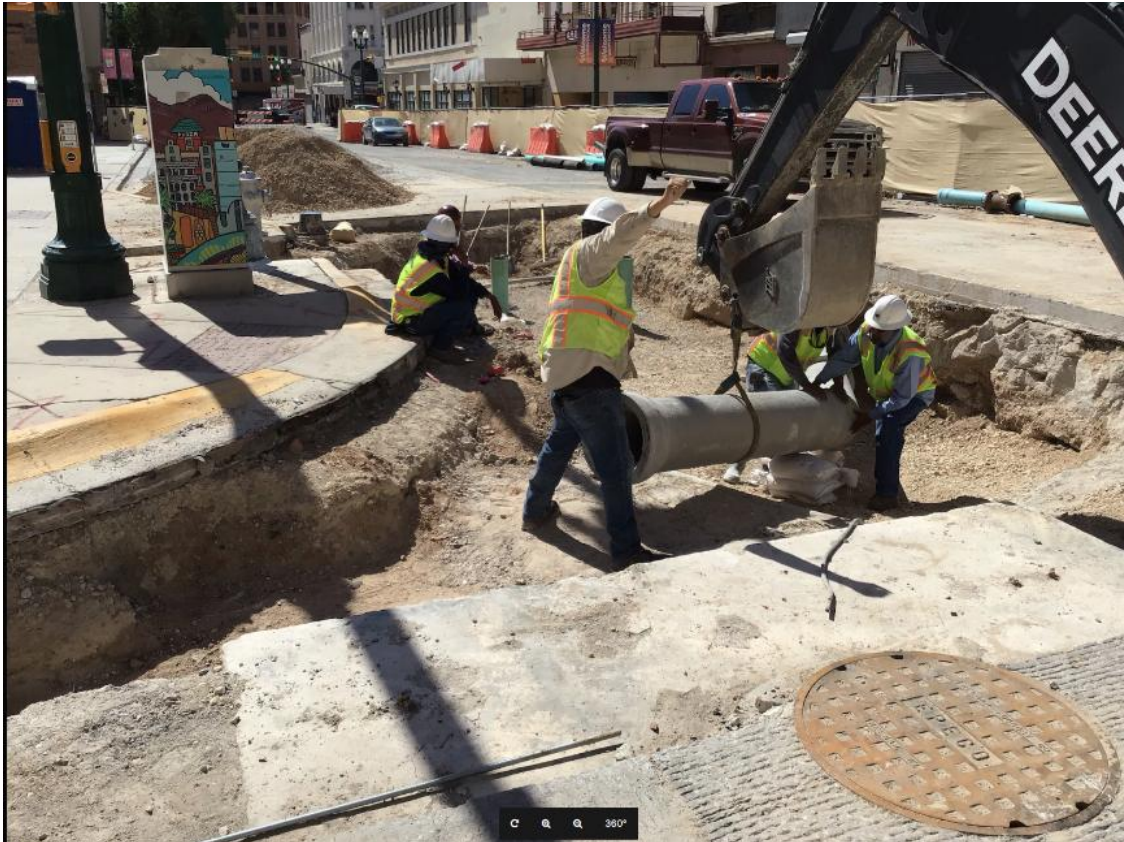


Channel Replacement and upgrades

District 3

Mesa and Texas storm pipe – *Addressing aging infrastructure*

Before



After



Stormwater main replacement

District 8



Increased / Restoration of Storage Capacity
and efficiency

San Jose Pond Improvements – *Increased storage capacity*

Before



After



New Pond

District 2

Lower Morehead Retention Pond Improvements

Increased storage capacity

Before



New Pond

After



District 2

Austin Pond Improvements – *Restoring storage capacity*

Before



Installation of bleeder line

After



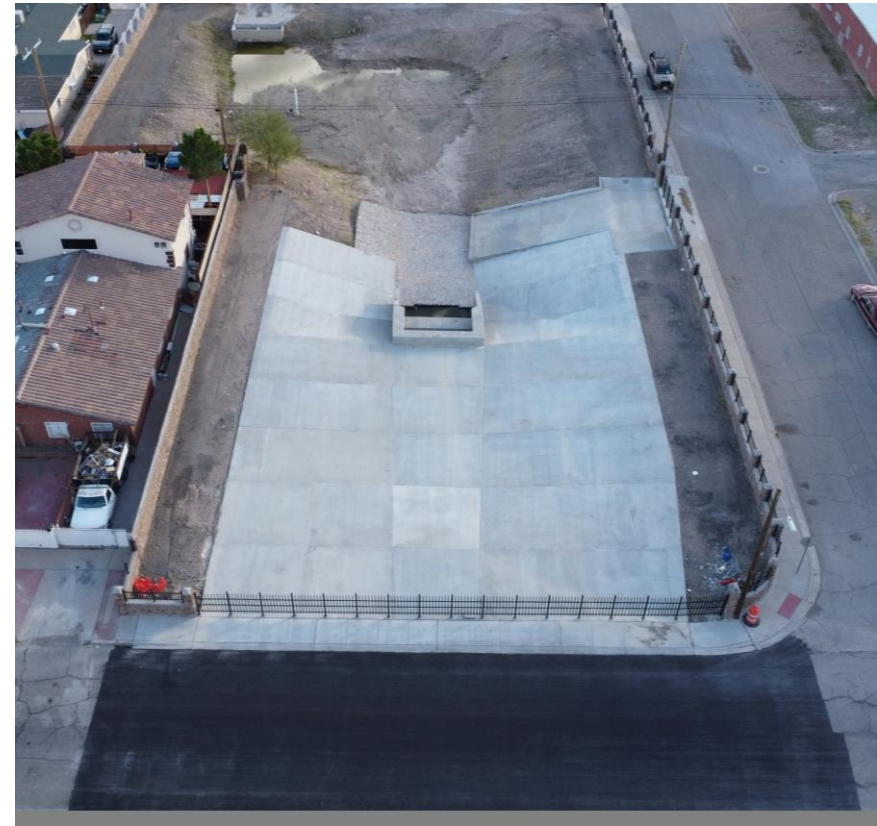
District 2

Louisiana Dam Improvements – *Efficiently removing water from street*

Before



After



Rockwall removal and construction of flume

District 2



TCEQ and USACE Compliance

North Hills Dam Desilting: Restoration of capacity

Before



TCEQ Coordination and Inspections

After



District 4



Arroyo Stabilization

Arroyo 1 Conveyance Improvements – *Stabilizing Existing Arroyo*

Before



After



Green Infrastructure

District 1

Current/Upcoming Construction Projects

- Magnolia Pump Station and Saipan Pond Improvements
- Continuation of Corrugated Metal Pipe Condition Assessment and Replacement Program
- Doniphan Trash Removal
- Featherlake Dam Improvements
- Animal Services Pond
- John T Hickerson Stormwater Basin

Featherlake Basin Improvements

Before



In Progress



District 7

John T. Hickerson Stormwater Basin

Before



In Progress



Animal Services Pond:

Increased capacity protects City infrastructure

Before

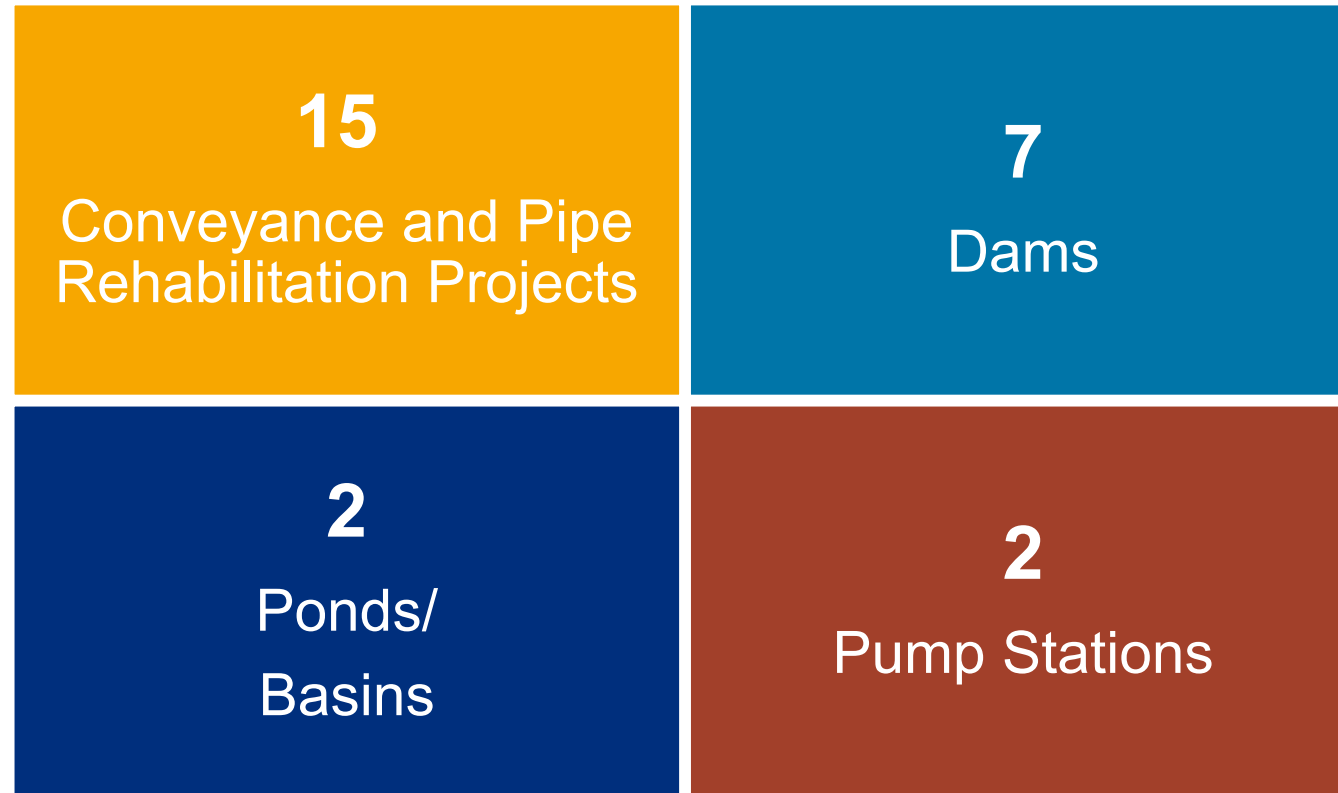


In Progress



District 3

Projects in planning and design



Stormwater Operations Report

March 2024 to February 2025

A team of 40 is responsible for maintaining citywide stormwater system



Ponds

689 acres maintained



Channels & Levees

50 miles cleaned



Storm Drains

35 miles cleaned/maintained



Inlets

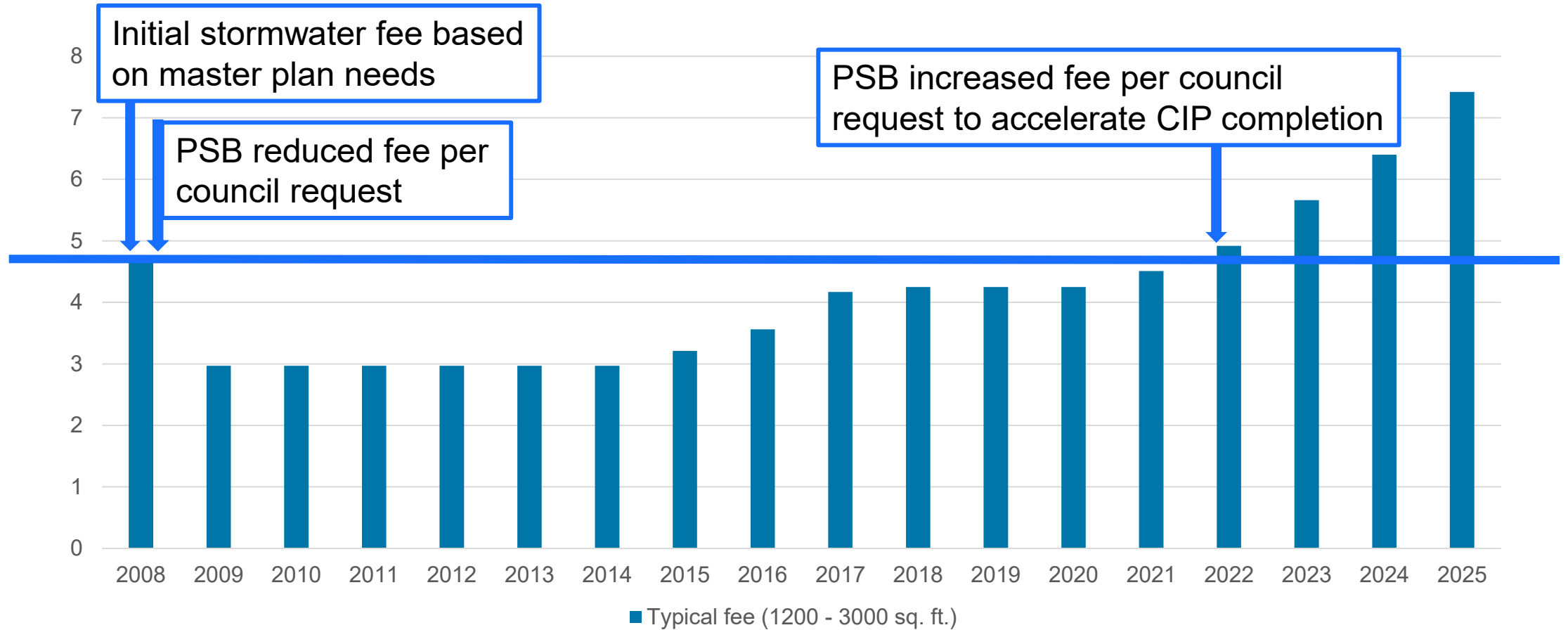
9,225 cleaned



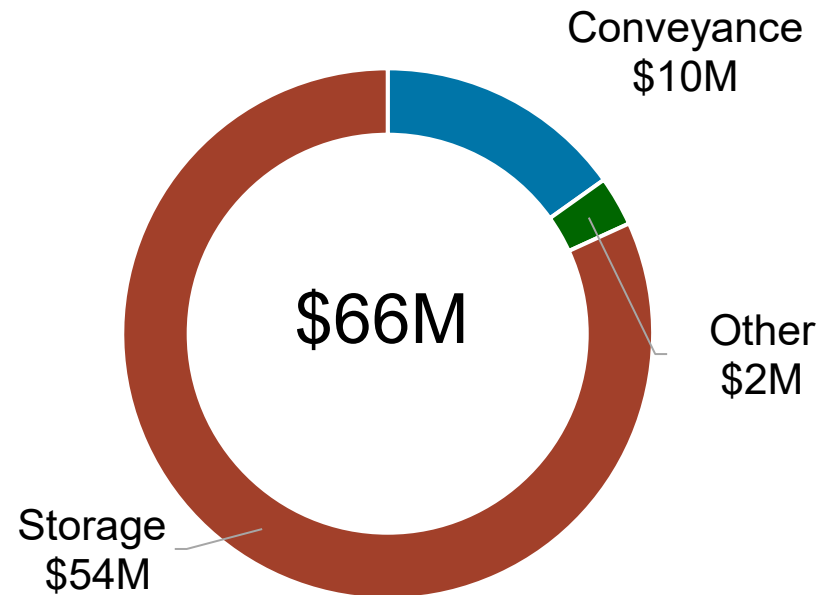
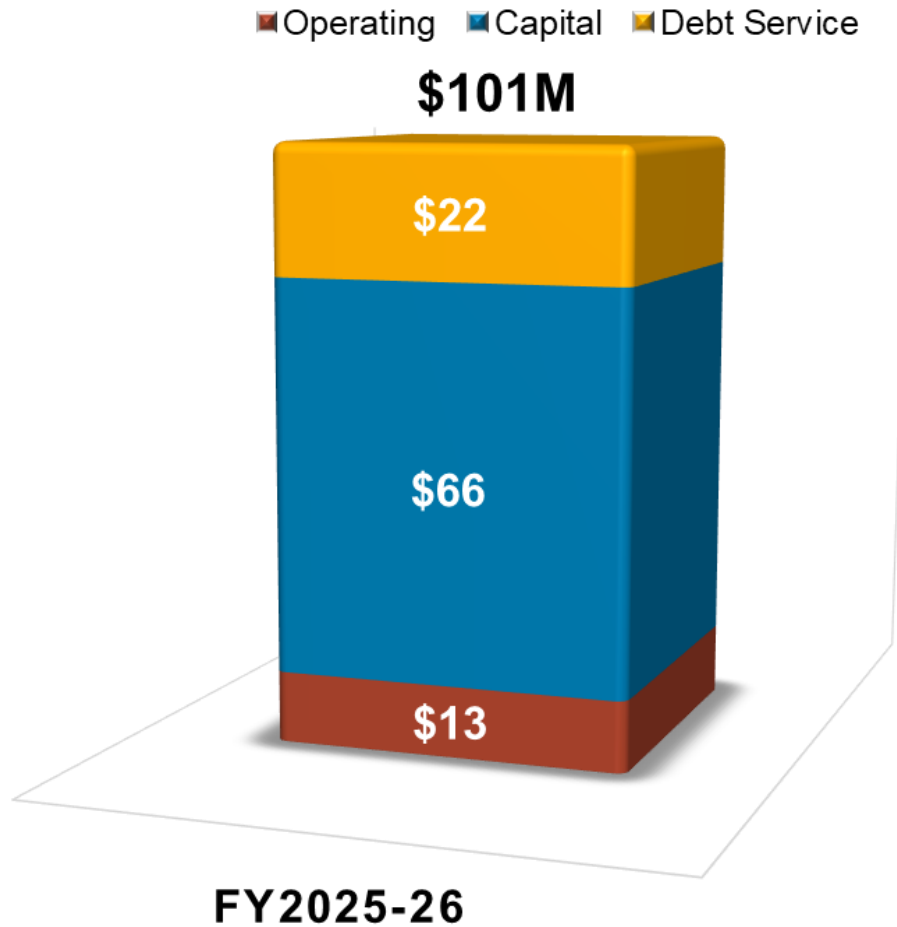
Dams

698 acres maintained

The Stormwater Fee



Stormwater Budget & Capital Improvement Program



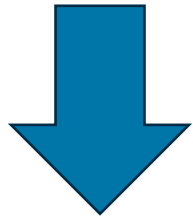
Actively pursuing state/federal funding

Received or Committed (over several years)	Amount
USACE – Pump Stations	\$ 3,825,000
USACE - Conveyance	\$ 4,050,000
USACE – Storage (Ponds and Dams)	\$ 2,283,000
USACE - Studies	\$ 3,000,000
USACE – Flood Warning System	\$ 975,000
TWDB – Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) - Storage	\$ 5,110,000
Total to-date	\$ 19,243,000

Requested	Amount
TWDB – Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) – Pump Station	\$18,750,000
TWDB – FIF - Studies	\$1,358,000
USACE – Storage (Ponds and Dams)	\$ 9,200,000
USACE – Flood Warning System	\$ 2,025,000
Total requests	\$ 31,333,000

Total Investment (2008-2024)

Projects (Engineering & Construction)	Land	Open Space	Total Investment
\$280M	\$43M	\$39M	\$362M



**Initial Stormwater Master Plan
Scope: \$650M Construction Only**

Removing Properties from the Flood Zone

Since the Stormwater utility was created, more than **20,500** properties have been removed from the flood zone.

■ Northeast Channel	5,000
■ Pico Norte	523
■ Levee Certification	15,000

Projects planned over the next few years will remove another 600 properties from the floodplain.

\$11M in Estimated Annual Savings

Flood insurance is mandatory for properties in a flood zone with federally backed mortgages.

Once removed from the flood zone through a Letter of Map Revision, residents are no longer required to carry flood insurance.

Stormwater Management – Community Impact



FEMA

What is the Community Rating System?

The CRS is a FEMA program that rewards communities for proactive floodplain management. Communities are rated on a scale from 1 (best) to 10 based on efforts to reduce flood risk.

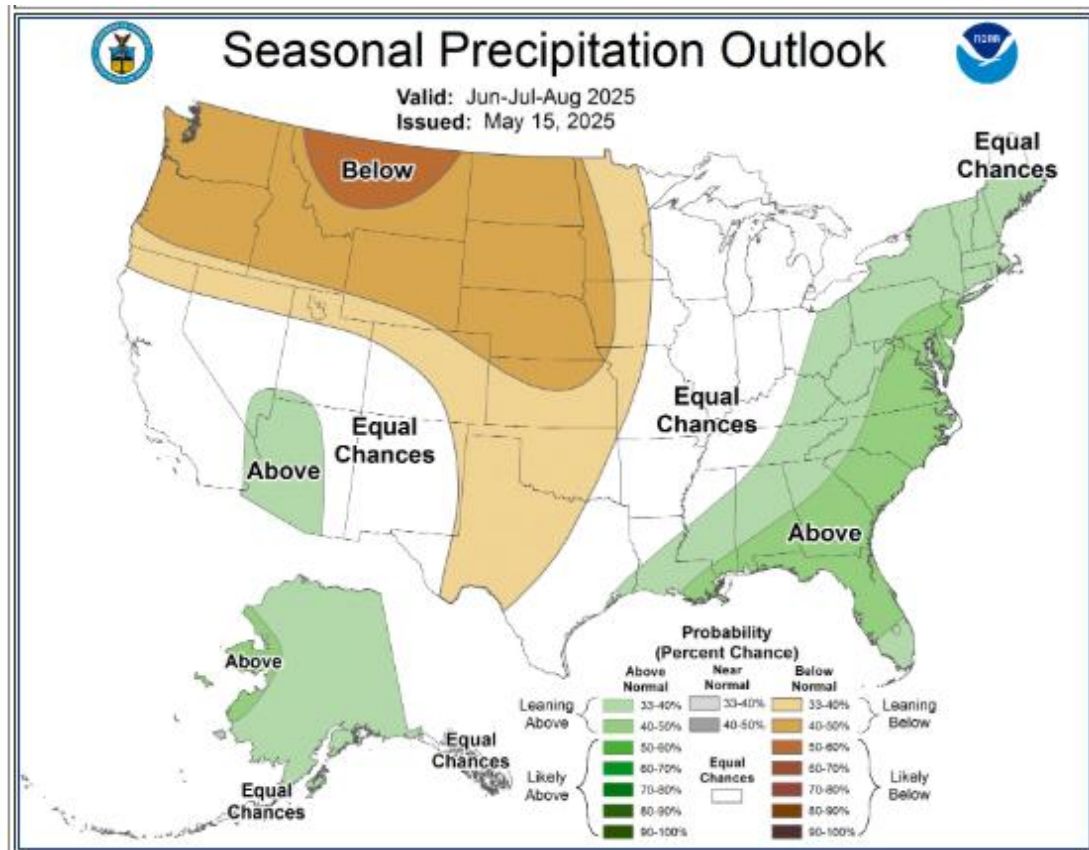
Improved Community Rating System Score

- CRS score improved from Class 9 to Class 7
- Flood insurance discount increased from 5% to 15%

What this means for El Paso

- Significant investment in flood control is paying off
- Residents now benefit from greater protection and lower insurance costs.

Monsoon Outlook



- El Niño moving in: June – August
- Stronger monsoon – still below normal
- Possibility of extreme event remains



Building Resilience

The El Paso Water Stormwater Team is committed to protecting public safety and private property