

## TR-288

### Economic and Conservation Evaluation of Capital Renovation Projects: United Irrigation District of Hidalgo County (United) - Rehabilitation of Main Canal, Laterals, and Diversion Pump Station - Final

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Recognizing the seriousness of the water crisis in South Texas, the U.S. Congress enacted Public Law (PL) 106-576, entitled "The Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 (Act)." Therein, Congress authorized investigation into four water conservation projects for irrigation districts relying on the Rio Grande for their municipal, industrial, and agricultural irrigation supply of water. Subsequent legislation (i.e., PL 107-351, or "Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2002") amended the previous Act by adding 15 conservation projects. The project proposed by United Irrigation District (UID) is included among the amended fifteen projects. Authorization of these projects does not guarantee federal funding (i.e., appropriations) as several phases of planning and evaluation are necessary before these projects may be approved for financing and construction.

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES) and Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) economists and engineers are collaborating with Rio Grande Basin irrigation district managers, their consulting engineers, and using RGIDECON© to develop supportive materials documenting the sustainability of the projects being proposed by Texas irrigation districts to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The USBR, in a letter dated July 24, 2002, stated that RGIDECON© satisfies requirements of the legislation-authorized projects and that the USBR will use the results for economic and energy evaluation.

This report documents the economic analysis conducted for the project proposed by the United Irrigation District (i.e., the District) to the USBR. TAES/TCE agricultural economists have developed this analysis report as facilitated by the Rio Grande Basin Initiative and administered by the Texas Water Resources Institute of the Texas A&M University

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TWRI and the [Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources](#) are working together to foster and communicate research and educational outreach programs focused on water and natural resources science and management issues in Texas and beyond.



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