

Upgrades of the Prison Hill Control Gates

Maintenance work along the lower Colorado River is in full swing with work crews from Reclamation's Yuma Area Office (YAO) busy rebuilding several key components of the Main Outlet Drain Extension (MODE) – a canal system designed to carry irrigation drainage water from farming operations in the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District and South Gila Valleys to the Yuma Desalting Plant.

Facility improvements are now occurring at Prison Hill and will soon be initiated at several other locations. In March 2014, work crews began rebuilding the main control gates and diversion structure at Prison Hill that regulate the flow of water through the underground siphon that crosses underneath the property. The new gates and emergency by-pass structure – designed by the YAO's Facilities Engineering Group – is targeted for completion in early September 2014.

Concrete for the new gate structure was poured monolithically to bolster the facility's structural strength and integrity. Once completed, the new hydraulic gates located at the facility will be operated remotely from the YAO using supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) communications systems architecture.

###