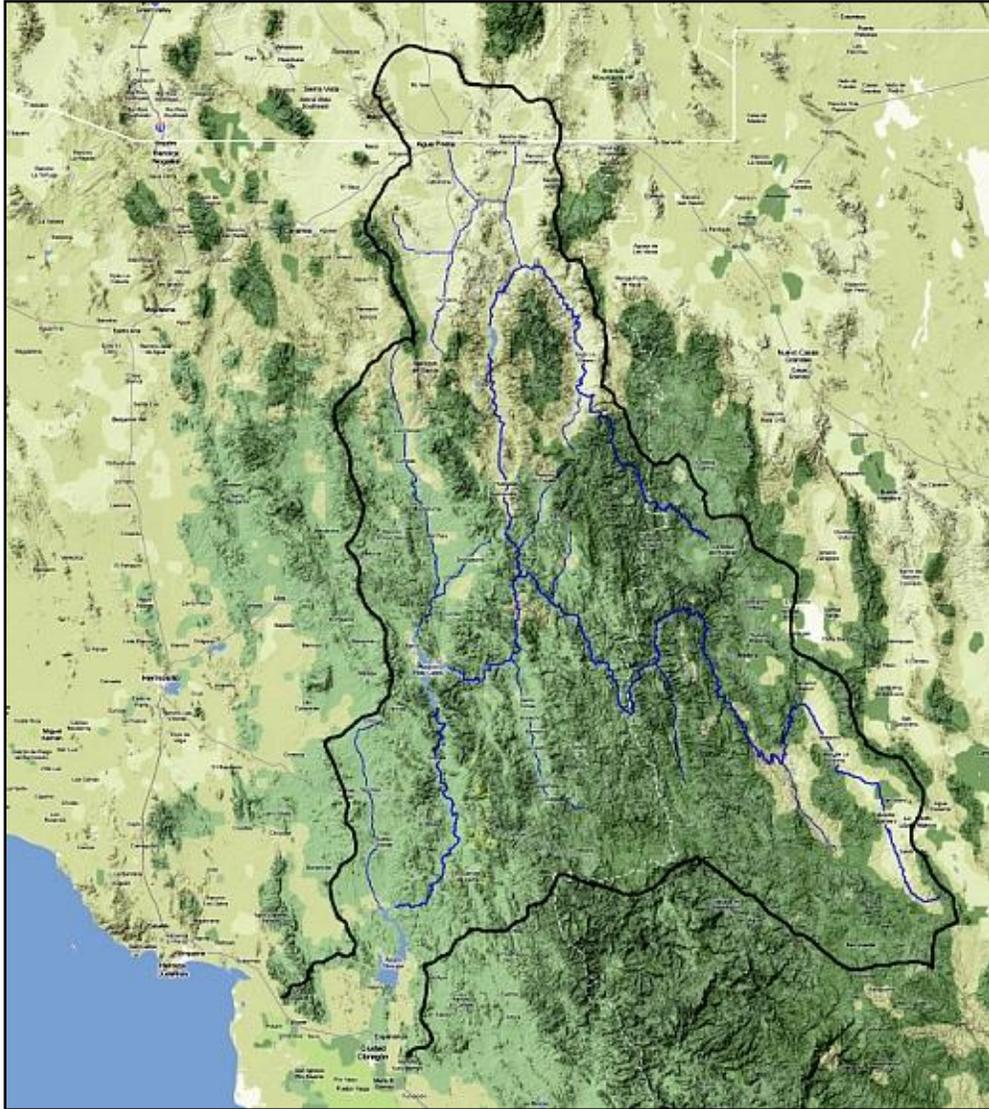


THE RIVER BASIN YAQUI



[See Enlargement](#)

In all fairness, the Yaqui River can be considered the "Amazon" of Northwest Mexico; there is no channel with a hydraulic path that exceeds it. This majestic work of Nature begins to integrate the first tributaries from the impressive mountains of the west of Chihuahua, in the Sierra Madre Occidental. There are [promontories](#) whose elevations exceed 2,700 meters

above sea level, while it is a very productive area of rainfall with an average annual sheet that exceeds 50 centimeters.

At first the channel receives the name of " Papigochic River", that in language Tarahumara means "Pico Largo", a form to identify by the old natives to a typical bird of the region. This channel is soon stopped by the first engineering work that was built to take advantage of its waters: the Dam "[Abraham González](#)" ,located 8 kilometers upstream from the town of [Ciudad Guerrero](#) ,first important community in the course of the current.

The reservoir was built between 1958 and 1961 and was prepared to capture 71 million cubic meters;the curtain is of rock with a waterproof heart of 40 meters of height on the bed of the river, and its objective is to irrigate a potential surface of 5,500 hectares. After crossing through the aforementioned Guerrero City, the surplus that the dam downloads they follow a course towards the northwest, touching the communities of Tejolocachic , Matachic , Temosachic , and a few kilometers later it changes course in a practically 90 degree turn to continue towards the southwest.

After just over 100 kilometers, the " Papigochic " arrives at a point called "[La Junta](#)" where it joins the first branch of importance: the Verde River, now taking the name "Río Sirupa " honoring the community that bathes with its waters; still in the State of Chihuahua, it crosses later by Huapoca reaching a geographical site where the "Chico River" is integrated.

After traveling a few kilometers to the west, the " Sirupa " modifies its

trajectory towards the southwest, now capturing the runoff of the "Tutuaca River"; henceforth the stream will be called ["Rio Aros"](#) until it reaches the border with Sonora at a point called "Guadalupe", almost at the mouth of another major tributary: the ["Mulatos."](#)

In its zigzagging trajectory, the Aros River heads towards the northwest, picking up the hydraulic products of the "Bonito" River, recharged at the same time with the runoff from the "El Riíto" subfluent. The now large river, will reach the discharge of the "Bavispe" finally changing its name to the definitive ["Río Yaqui"](#). Shortly before, the still Rio Aros captures the runoff of the stream "Nacori Chico", a tributary that gives life to the villages of Basuchi, Buenavista, El Sauz and of course the municipal head of [Nácori Chico](#).

The Yaqui River will take a course towards the south, being 60 kilometers ahead with the contributions of the ["Sahuaripa River"](#), which [transits](#) through the communities of Cajon de Onapa, Tacupeto, Bámori, [Arivechi](#), Santo Tomás and [Sahuaripa itself](#) shortly before its connection to the mighty Yaqui, who also receives the stream ["Bacanora"](#) almost at the entrance of the immense reservoir of the Presa "Plutarco Elías Calles" popularly called "El Novillo".

It is appropriate to mention that this reservoir receives the waters of the ["Río Moctezuma"](#), a greater tributary than it enters through the northern sector after visiting several communities, among which [Cumpas](#), Jécori and [Moctezuma](#); an important branch of this current is the tributary called "Río Tepache", where the same community of [Tepache](#) and [Divisaderos](#)

settle.

The "[El Novillo](#)" hydroelectric dam, of the concrete arch type as well as the "Angostura", started operating on December 9, 1963 and is prepared to store 2.925 million cubic meters; the exceedance capacity reaches the top of 12,000 cubic meters per second and its powerhouse is capable of generating 500 Giga Watts-hour on average in the year.

The Bavispe River, Greater Tributary of the Yaqui

The "Bavispe" River is undoubtedly the largest tributary of the Yaqui River, beginning the integration of its flows in the neighboring State of Chihuahua. The first runoffs fall from the "Mesa del Huracán", an area located more than 2,000 meters above sea level and a first stream appears with the name of " Chihuichupa " to begin its pilgrimage.

A second great connection, the "Black River", is integrated after several kilometers adding up almost immediately "The Hawk", to give body thereafter the mighty "Rio Bavispe" that begins its journey precisely in a place called "[Three Rivers.](#)"

The now-abundant "Río Bavispe" takes a north-northwest direction through the mountains of the border area with Chihuahua, and already in Sonora it receives the stream "[Babidanchic](#) " , current that is born in the neighborhoods of the town of Aribabi crossing later by Huepari , Babidanchic and [Huachinera](#) before its final discharge.

In its course, the ["Bavispe"](#) will pass through [Bacerac](#) , [Bavispe](#) , San Miguelito, La Morita, Colonia Oaxaca, Azogues, arriving at [Colonia Morelos](#) , where the stream " Batepito " is integrated to the runoff;This tributary is a large collector in turn of the tributaries "Cajón Bonito", "El Riyito " and ["Agua Prieta"](#) , the latter being the river that [originates in the American Union](#) crossing the border city that gives its name to the current.It should be noted that the Agua Prieta River collects the hydraulic products of the "Punta de Agua" and " [Fronteras](#) " streams , the latter associated with the town of the same name, crossing [Esqueda](#) and Turicachic in its upper part.

At the Colonia Morelos point, the ["Bavispe River"](#) touches the greater latitude to then head south towards its final destination: the ["Lázaro Cárdenas Dam" or "Angostura"](#) , whose concrete-based curtain constitutes the first hydraulic work in its type of the Mexican Republic.

Raised in the late 30's, the work began its operational storage in July 1941 within a large project to generate electricity, while increasing the safety of downstream villages in extraordinary avenues.

The plan to produce energy in "La Angostura" failed due to difficulties in the acquisition of the turbines, at a time when the Second World War caused problems to the whole world.The dam is capable of containing a volume of 864 million cubic meters with a height above the riverbed of 77 meters;Its maximum capacity for the extraction of excesses is 1,900 cubic meters per second, while the intake work normally drains 120 cubic meters per second.

The tributaries and discharges of the Angostura [follow a course to the south](#), touching the communities of [Villa Hidalgo](#) , [Huásabas](#) , [Granados](#) and shortly before connecting to the Aros River, discharge their waters an important tributary: the " [Bacadehuachi](#) River", current associated to the locality of the same name.

From "El Novillo" to " Alvaro Obregón"

The gussets and discharges of "El Novillo" will advance [southwards for 170 kilometers](#) until unloading in the next dam, the " [Alvaro Obregón](#) ", passing through the villages of San Antonio de la Huerta, [Tonichi](#) , [Onavas](#) and [La Dura](#) .

Before discharging its waters in the " Alvaro Obregón", the "Yaqui River" receives the contributions of the greater tributary "Tecoripa", current that crosses by the localities of [Tecoripa](#) , [Suaqui Grande](#) and Cumuripa ;another branch will be the "Chico River" that nourishes the Movas Valley.

This last reservoir of the Yaqui River storage chain contains 3,000 million cubic meters and began to operate in June 1952;It was built with a riprap with a waterproof heart and has a maximum curtain height of 90 meters, being considered the largest of its kind when it was erected.It has a hydroelectric plant and its volumes maintain the agricultural production of the Yaqui Valley, being one of the most robust pillars of the Sonoran economy.