

# THE PANAMA CANAL

8-5. California going through Gaillard Cut



THE WORLDS GREATEST  
.. ENGINEERING FEAT. ..

# THE PANAMA CANAL

## Geo-risk management at the Panama Canal

**Gregory B. Baecher**  
University of Maryland

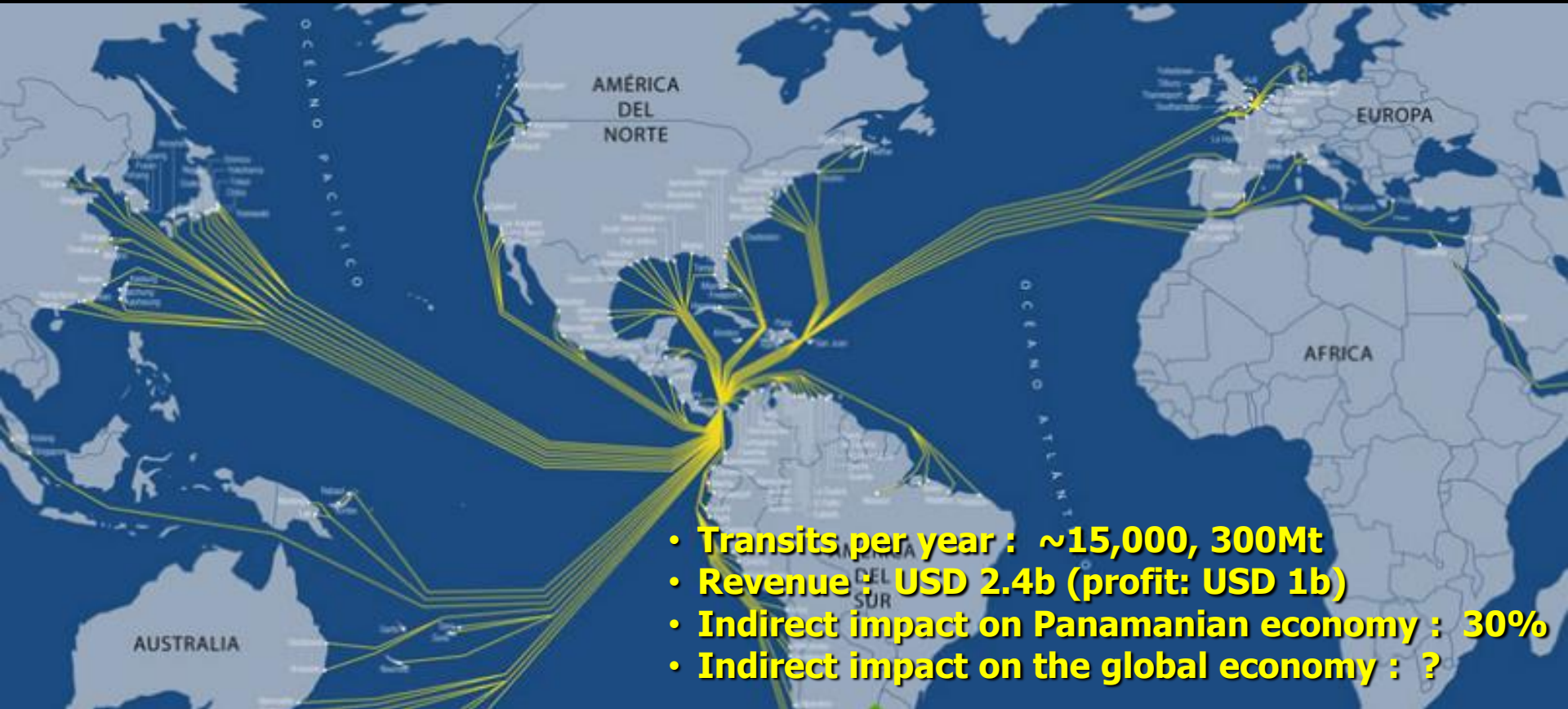
With appreciation to Dr. Luis Alfaro  
Vice President, Engineering  
Autoridad del Canal de Panamá

### Outline

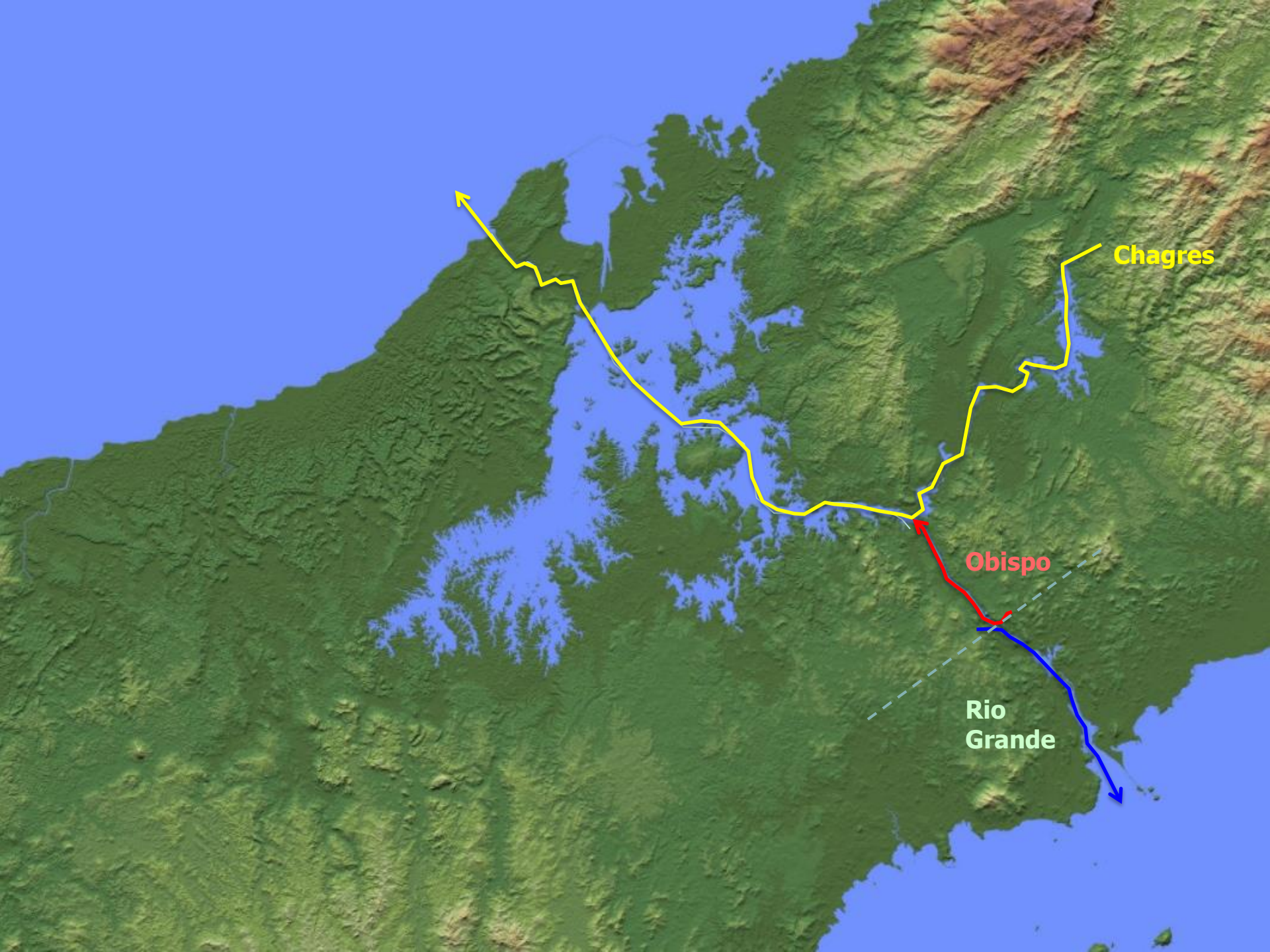
- Why a risk management program
- Recent experiences
- Risk components
- Geotechnical risks
- The new 3d locks

THE WORLDS GREATEST  
ENGINEERING FEAT.

# Logistical network through Panama



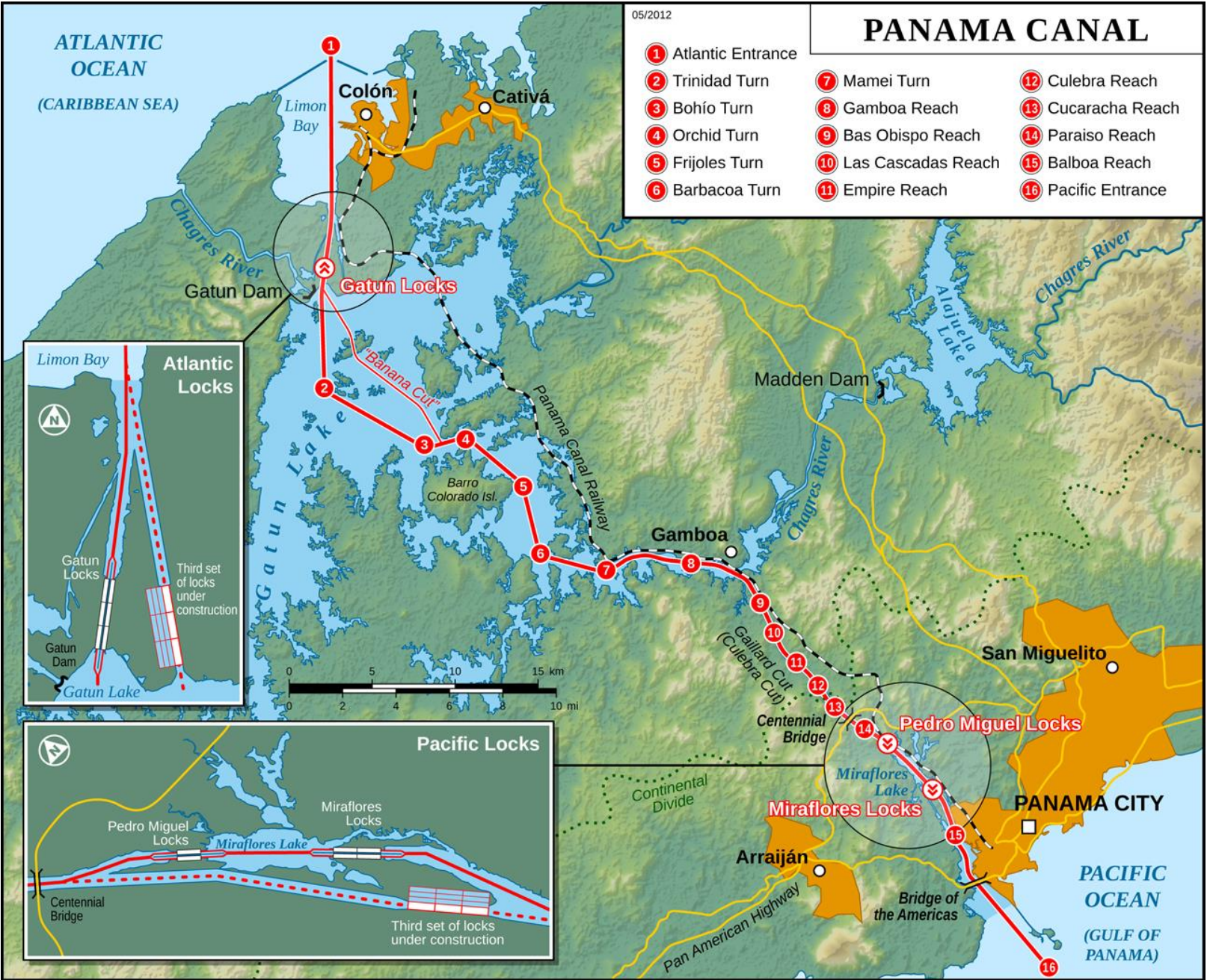
5% of world trade transits the Isthmus



Chagres

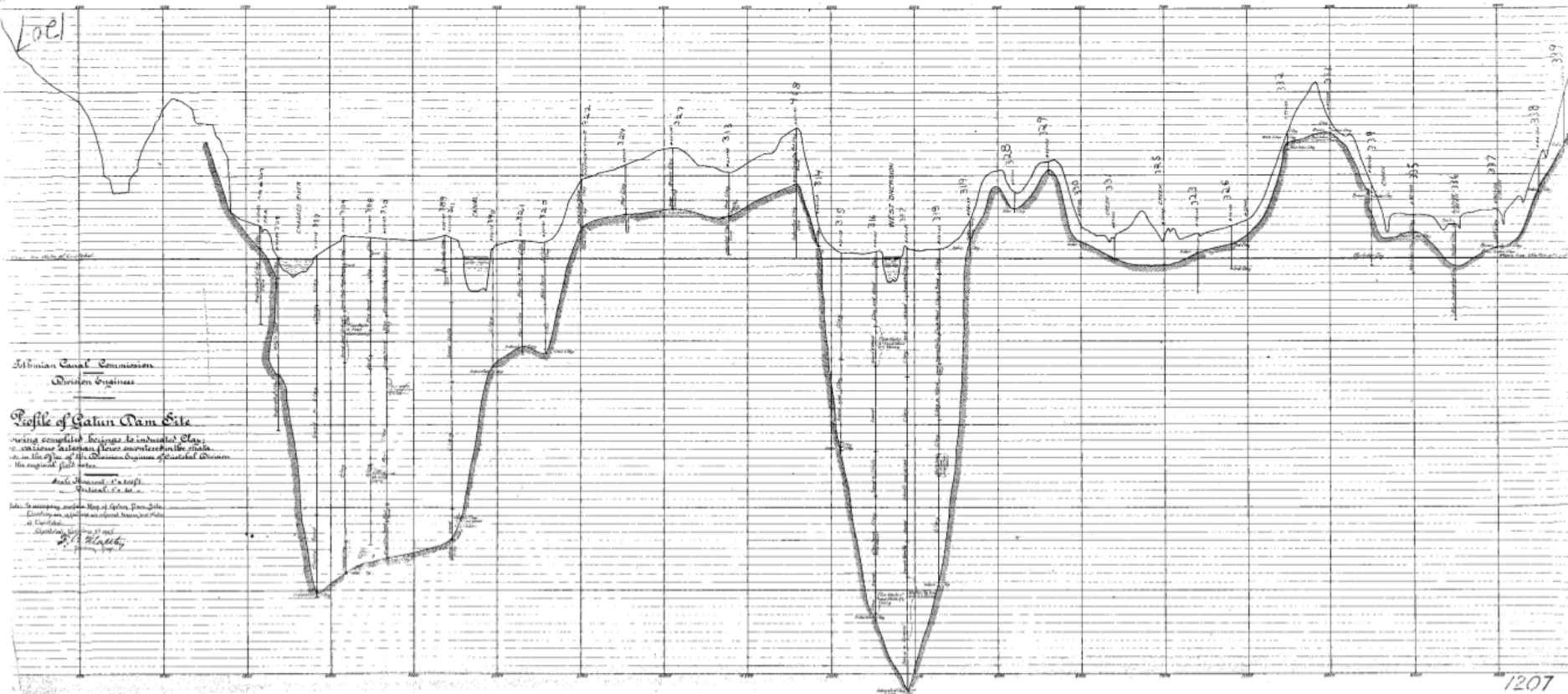
Obispo

Rio Grande



# Gatún Dam





# Gatún Dam

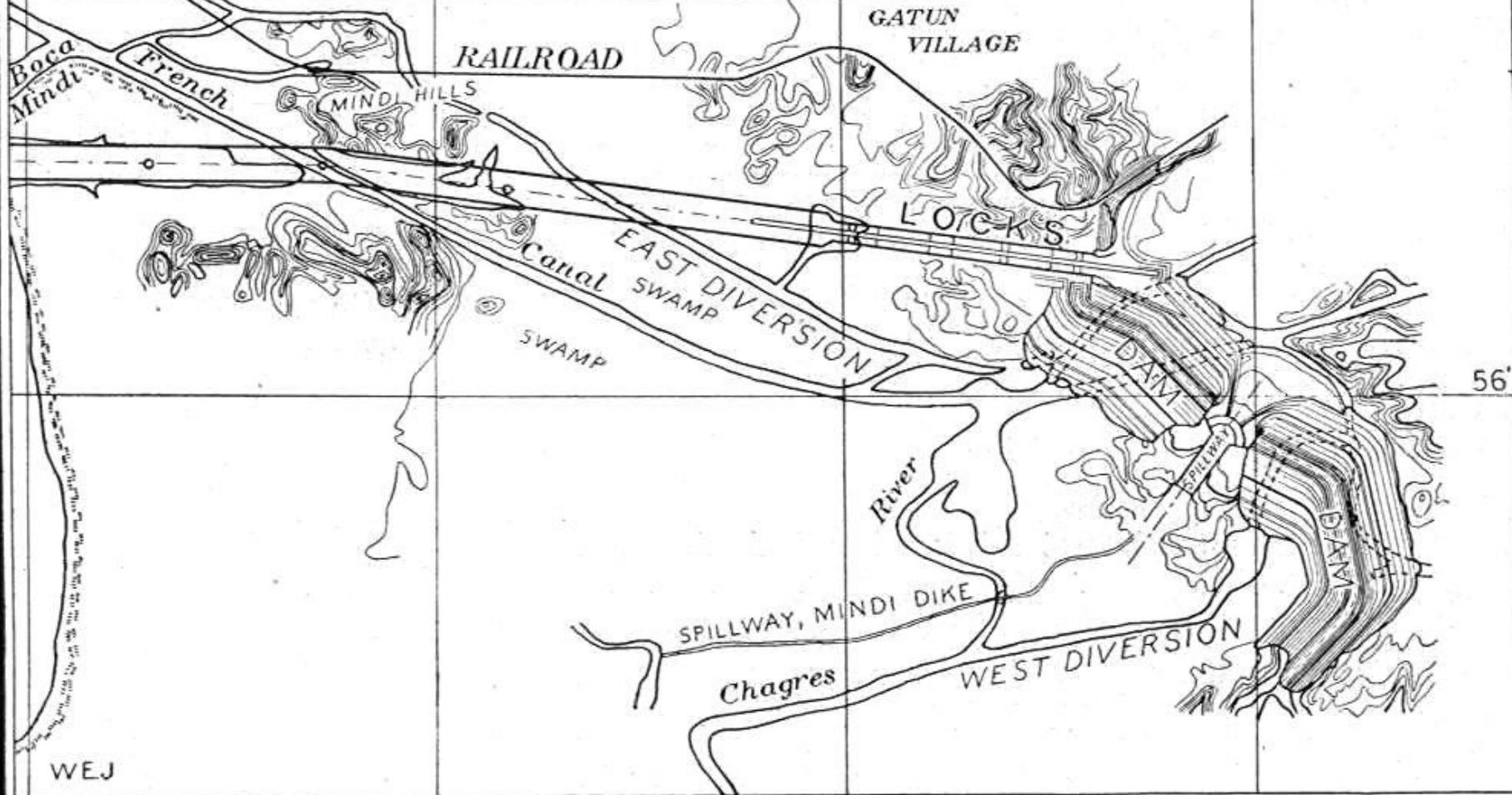
9° 18'

17'

9° 16'



79° 55'



56'

WEJ

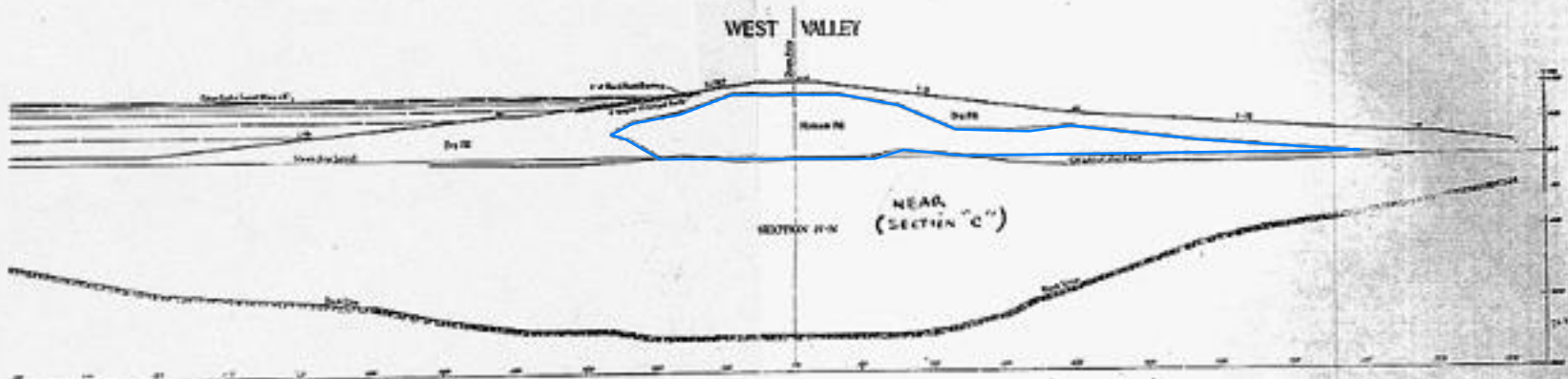


073307. GATUN DAM AND SOUTH (LAKE) ENTRANCE TO LOCKS.

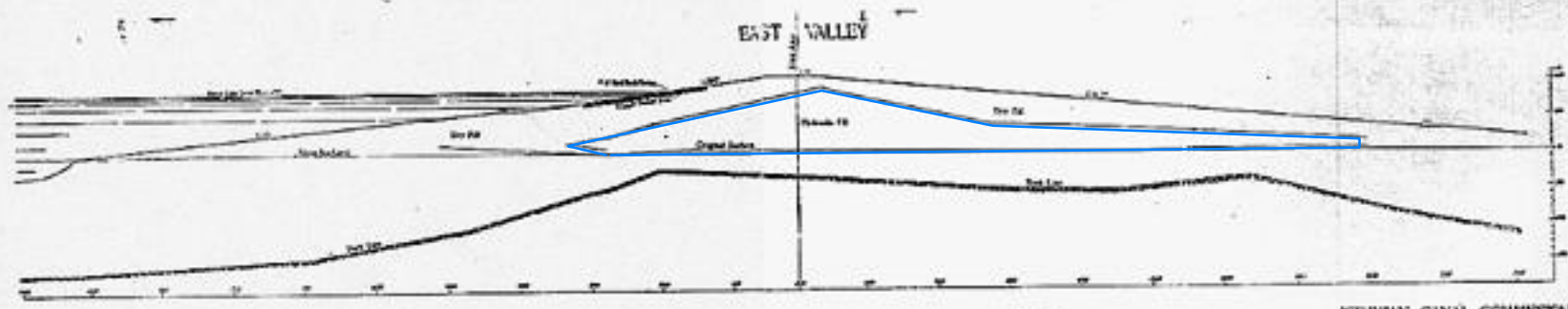




### WEST VALLEY



### EAST VALLEY

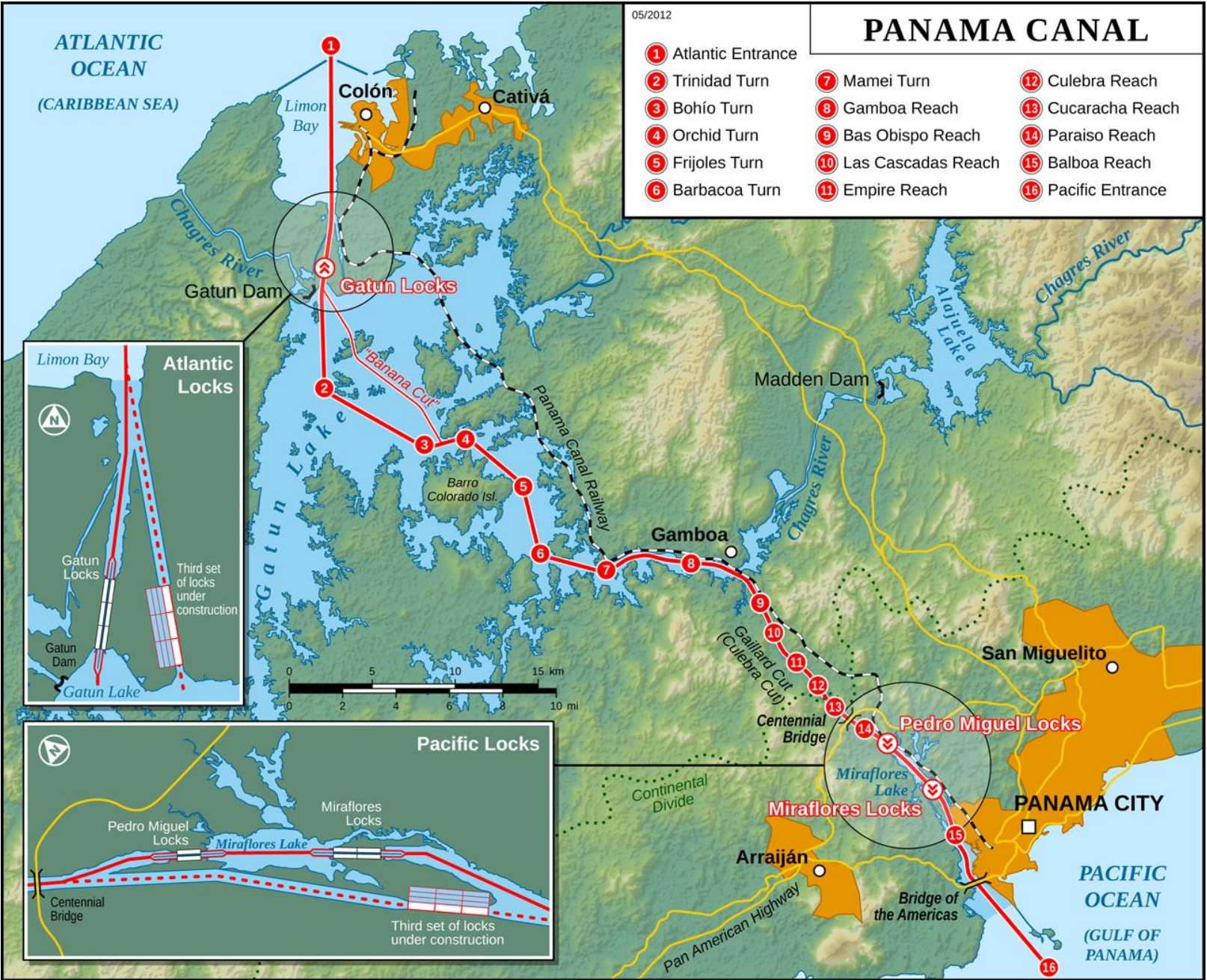


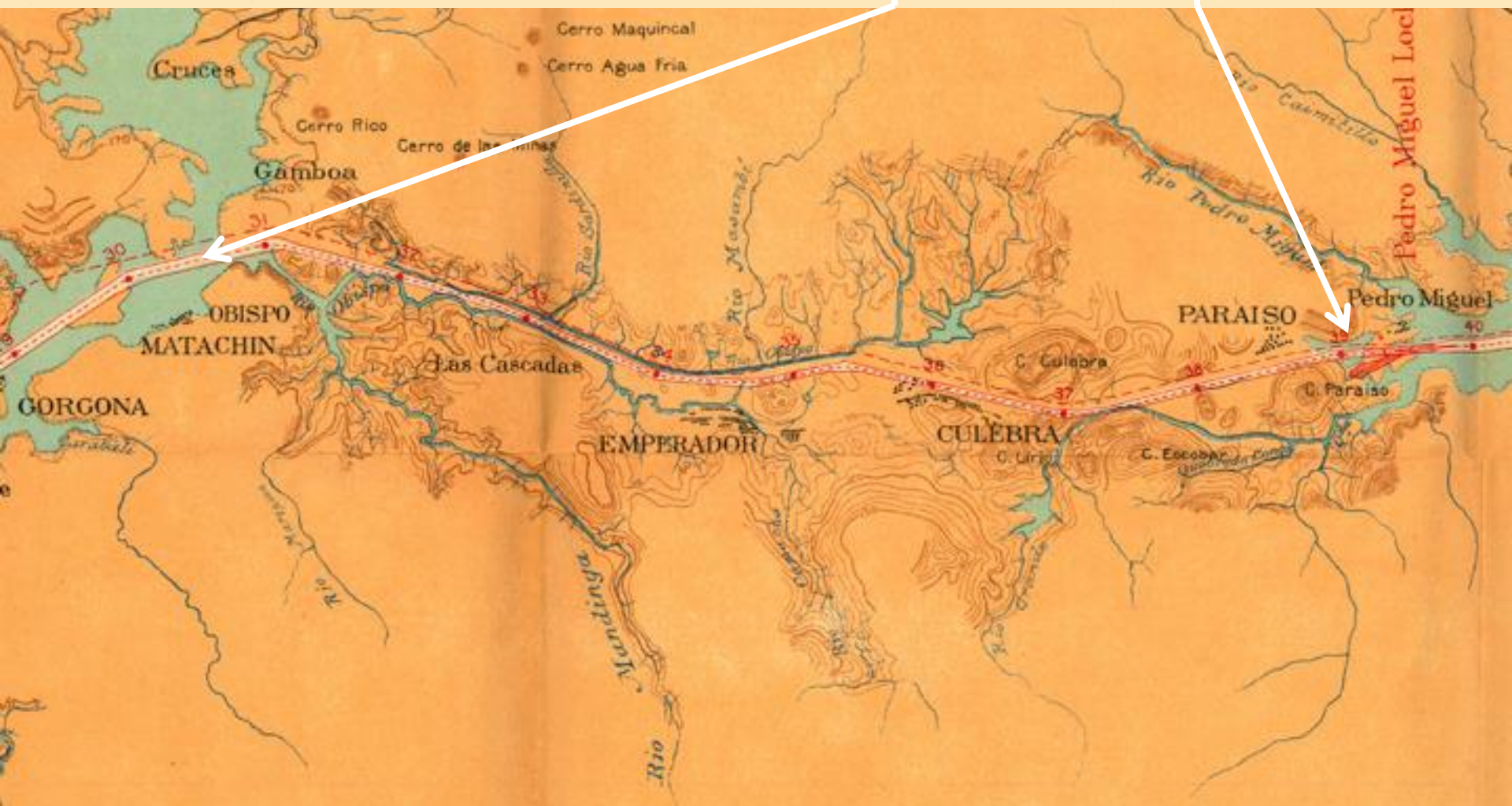
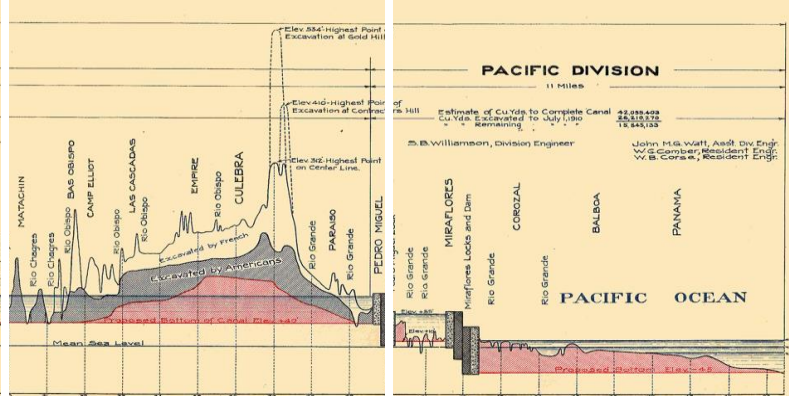
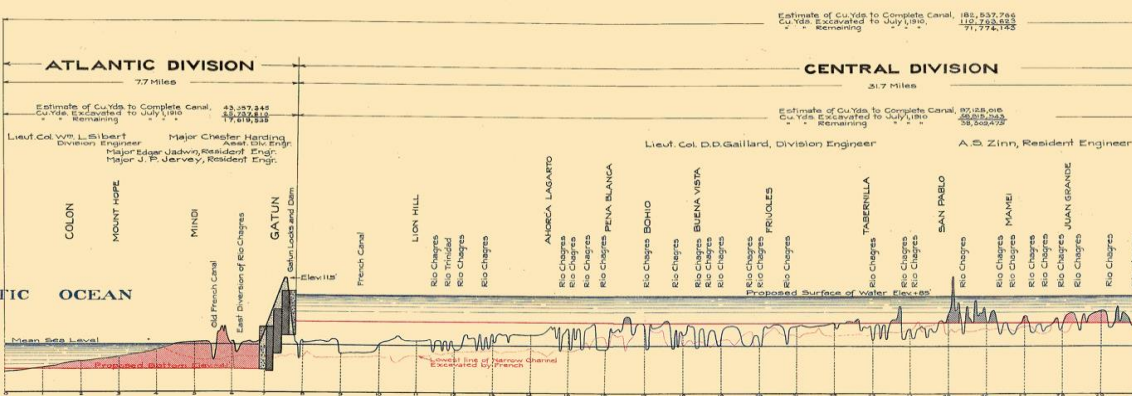
ISTHMIAN CANAL COMMISSION  
ATLANTIC DIVISION  
GATUN C.S.  
**SECTIONS OF GATUN DAM**

Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet

By *J. S. Davis*  
Civil Engineer

Approved: *J. S. Davis*  
Civil Engineer



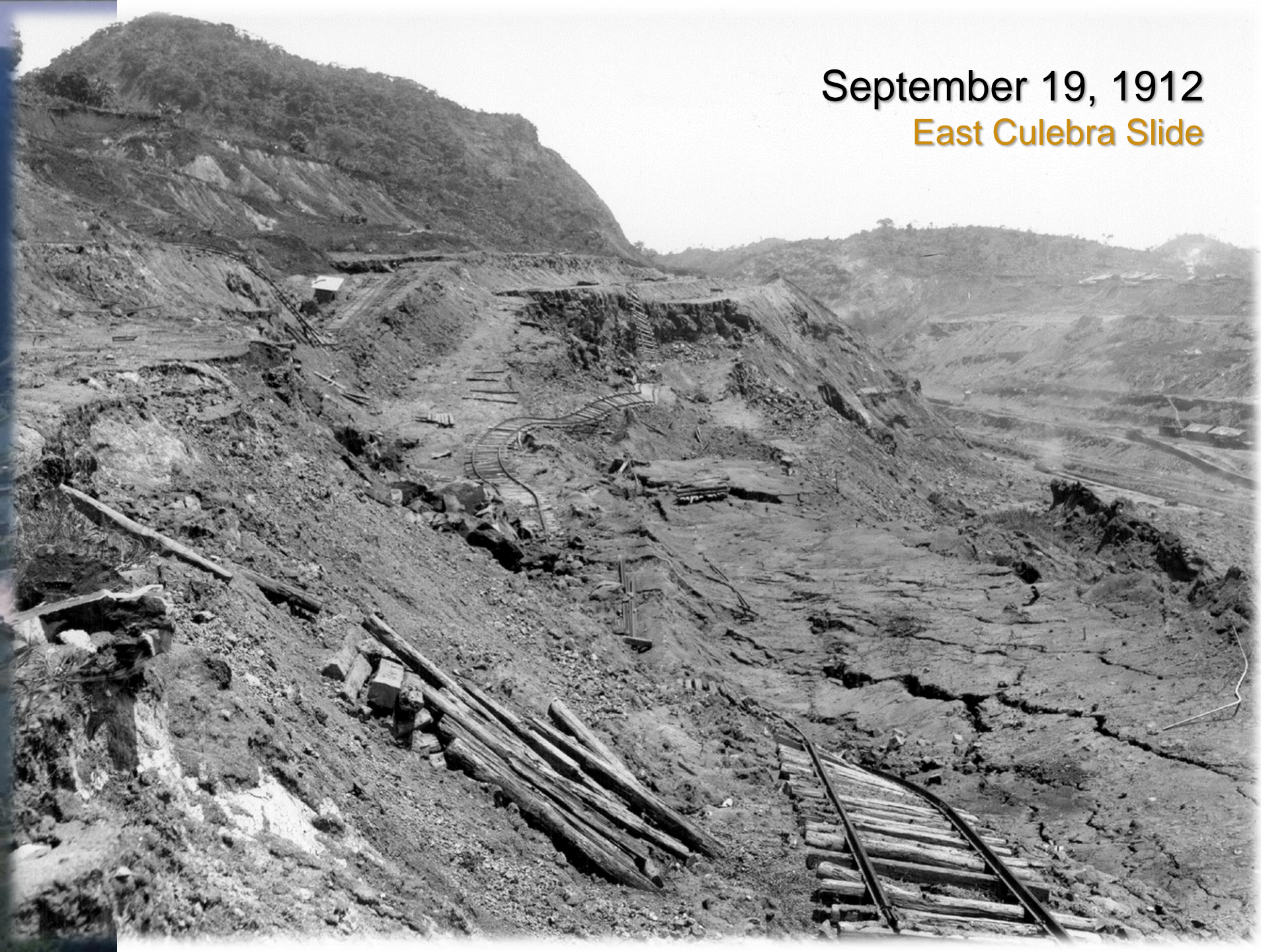


**Col. David DuBose Gaillard (1859-1913)**



In charge of excavations through the continental divide (Culebra Cut)

September 19, 1912  
East Culebra Slide

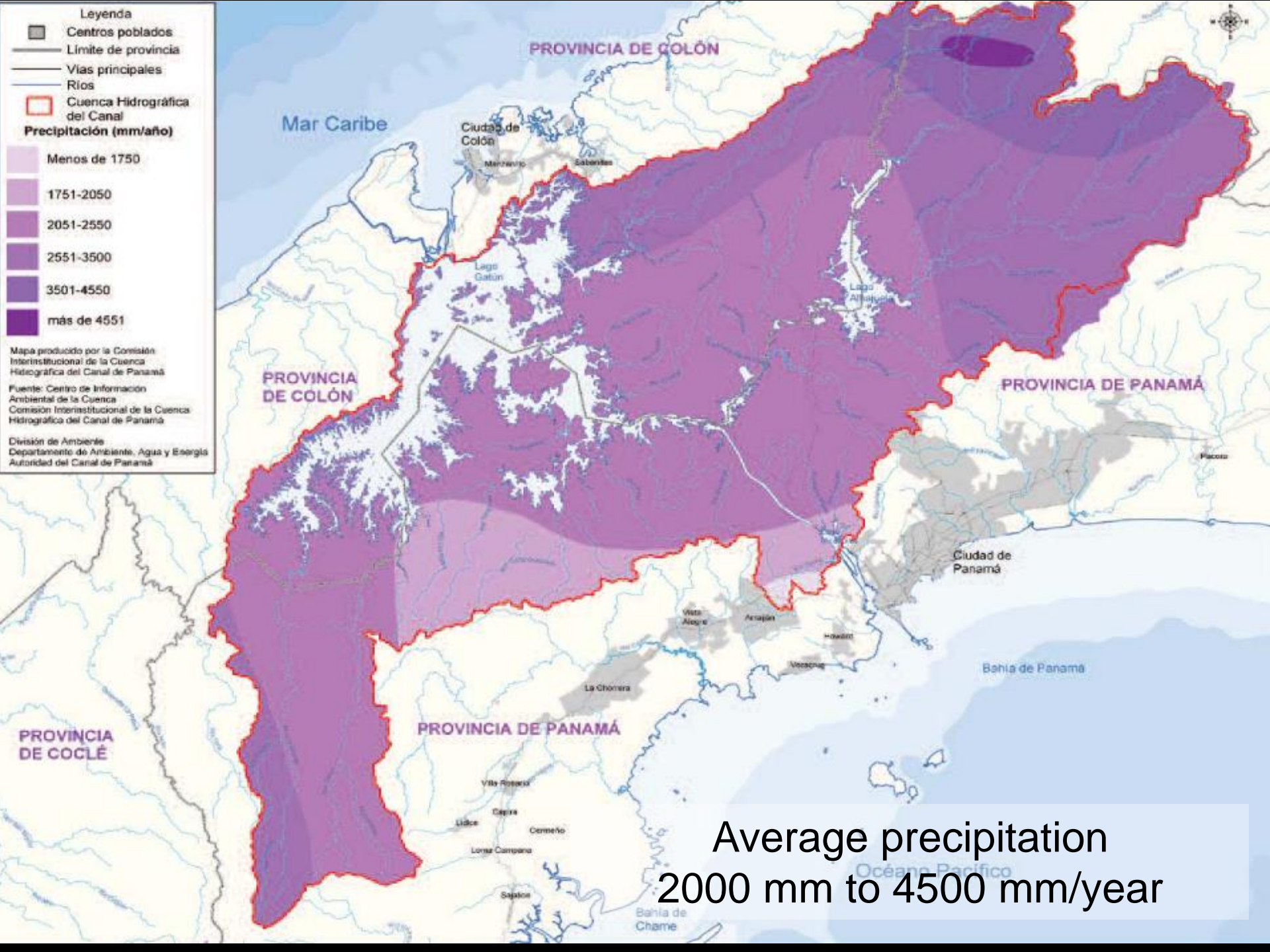


# La Purisima 7-9 Dec 2010

## Risk

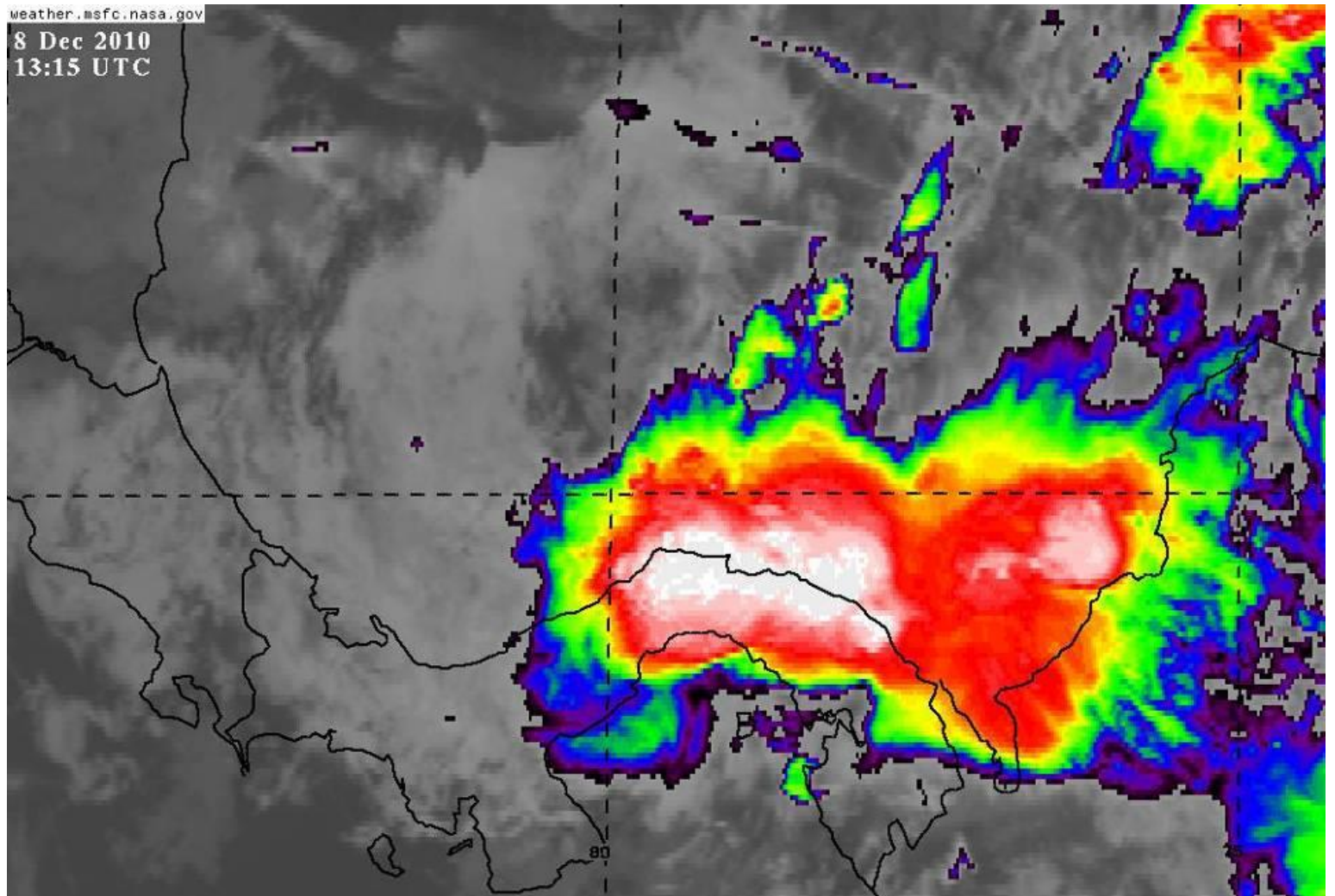




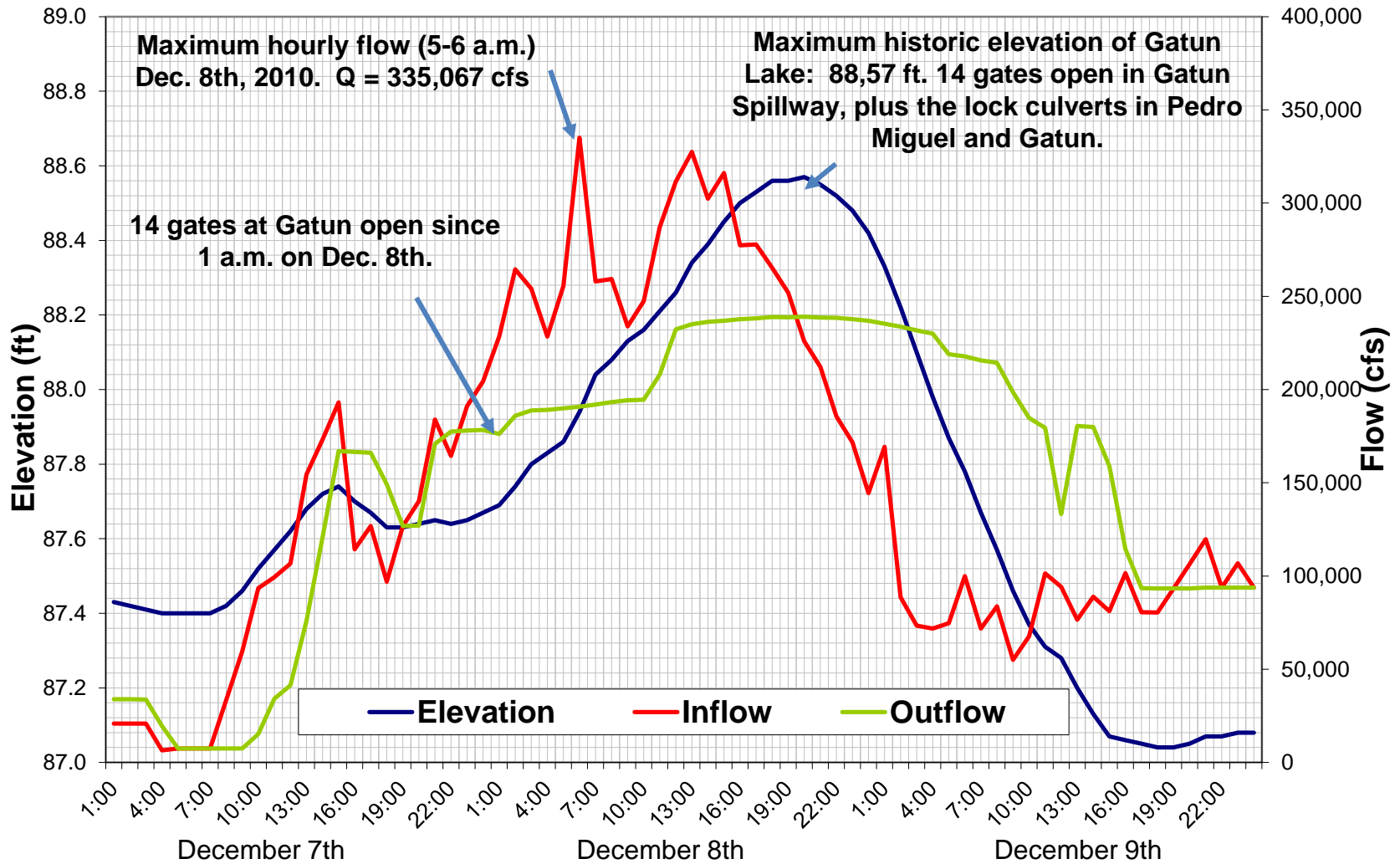


Average precipitation  
2000 mm to 4500 mm/year

## La Purisima storm 7-9 Dec 2010



# Gatun Lake. Storm of 7-9 December 2010



Gatún Dam (December 2010 – *La Purísima*)



**Madden Dam (December 2010 – *La Purisima*)**





## Alejuela Lake (Madden Dam)



## Panama City 1621

**More risk**







Escudo concedido por el Rey Carlos V de España a la antigua ciudad de Panamá el 15 de septiembre de 1541

**PEDRO MIGUEL FAULT**

*Ciudad de "Panamá La Vieja" en 1670*

**La Merced**

**San Francisco**

**San Juan de Dios**

**La Concepción**

**La Compañía de Jesús**

**Santo Domingo**

**San José**

12 km

**Cabildo**

**Casas Reales**

**Cathedral  
(built after 1621)**

Reference: Requejo Salcedo (1640)



# Father Juan Fonseca 1622

## EXCERPTS FROM THE HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL REPORT OF THE PROVINCE OF PANAMA ABOUT THE MAY 2, 1621 EARTHQUAKE

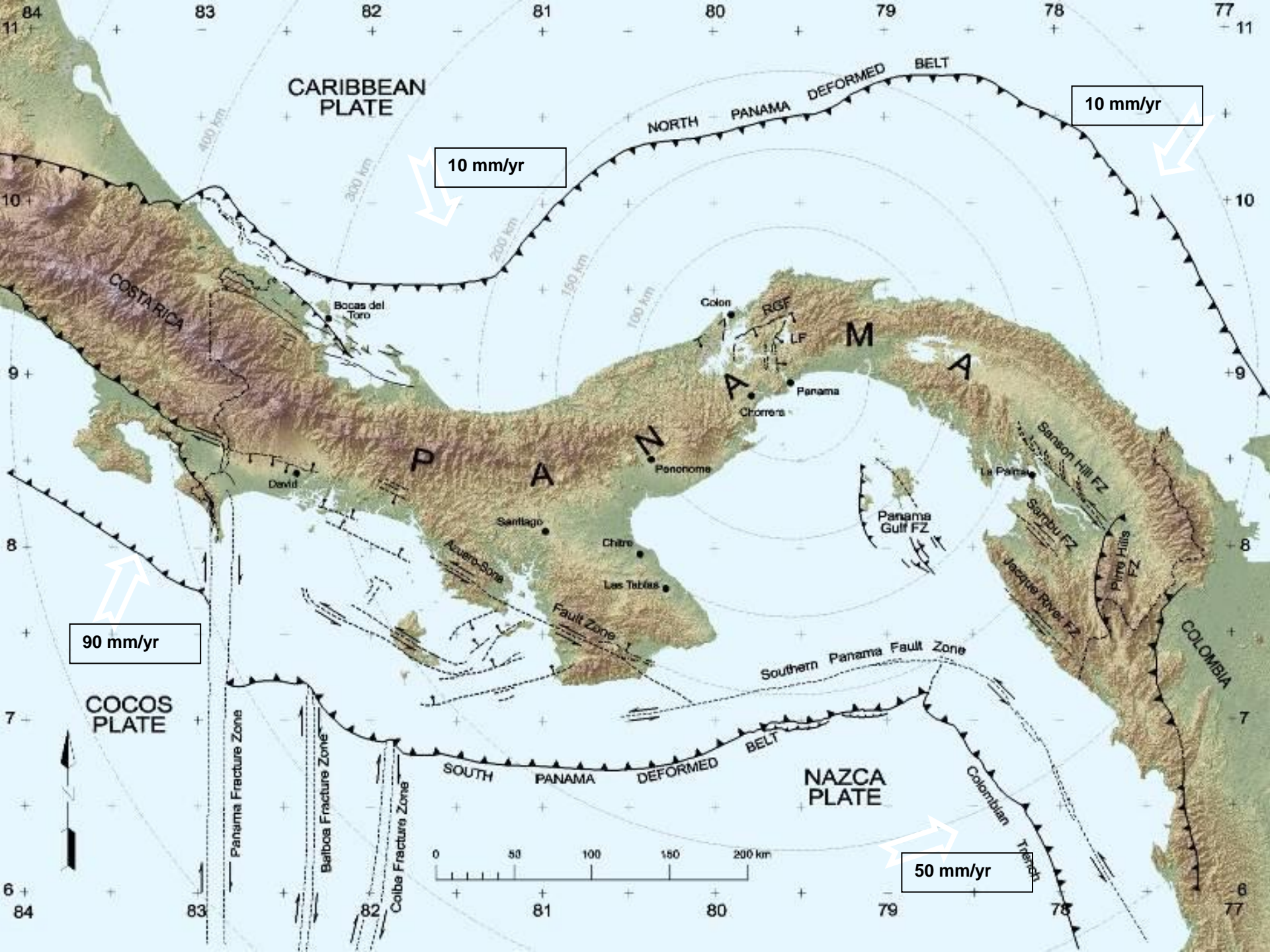
Juan Requejo Salcedo translated by Alice E. Westman

"The majority of the houses are of wood, but there are many of stone and brick including most of the convents. Those of wood are very strong as was clearly shown during an earthquake and its subsequent tremblors which lasted for more than three and a half months from 2 May until 21 August, on the Eve of Saint Bartolomew, in the year 1621, and during which twelve, ten, and six of less quakes were felt daily".

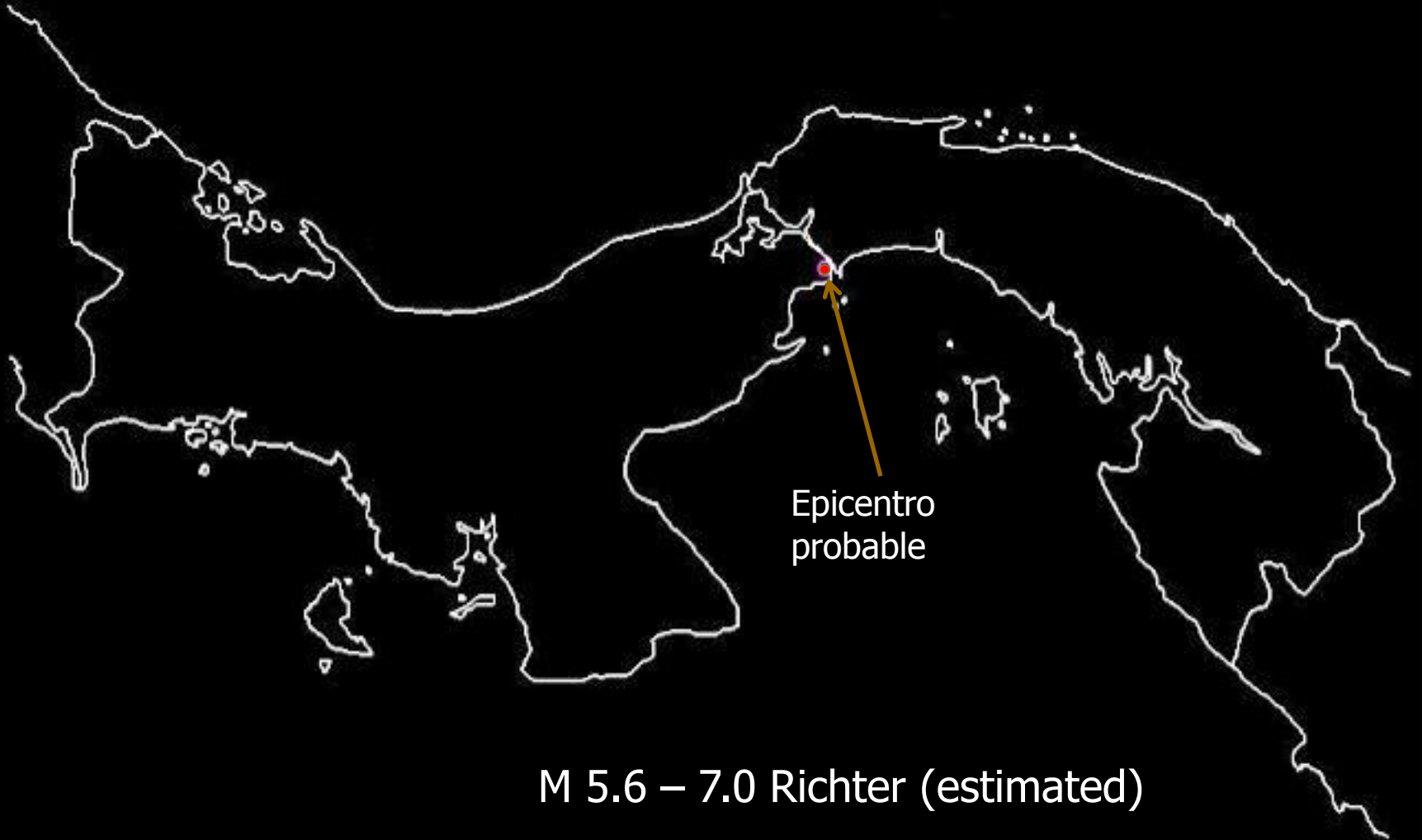
"...if it dealt so severely with this place where the buildings were strongly made of wood and stone, it would leave nothing but rubble from the adobe houses of Lima or Trujillo. It did great damage to the buildings made of stone, mortar and brick, cracking the walls and tearing others, although the oldest houses of wood, termitesaten and supported by props, came through unseathed. It happened as follows:

On Sunday, 2 May, on the feast of Saint Atanasio and Eve of the Invention of the Cross in the year 1621, between nine and ten in the morning the first quake was felt while I was in the sacristy fully vested to go out to say mass. Those of us who were there all felt it keenly, but it did no damage. However, we did not know what was yet to come, for the first quake was short and passed quickly.

At 4:30 or 4:45 in the afternoon, the second



## 2 May, 1621 Earthquake



M 5.6 – 7.0 Richter (estimated)

## 7 September, 1882 Earthquake

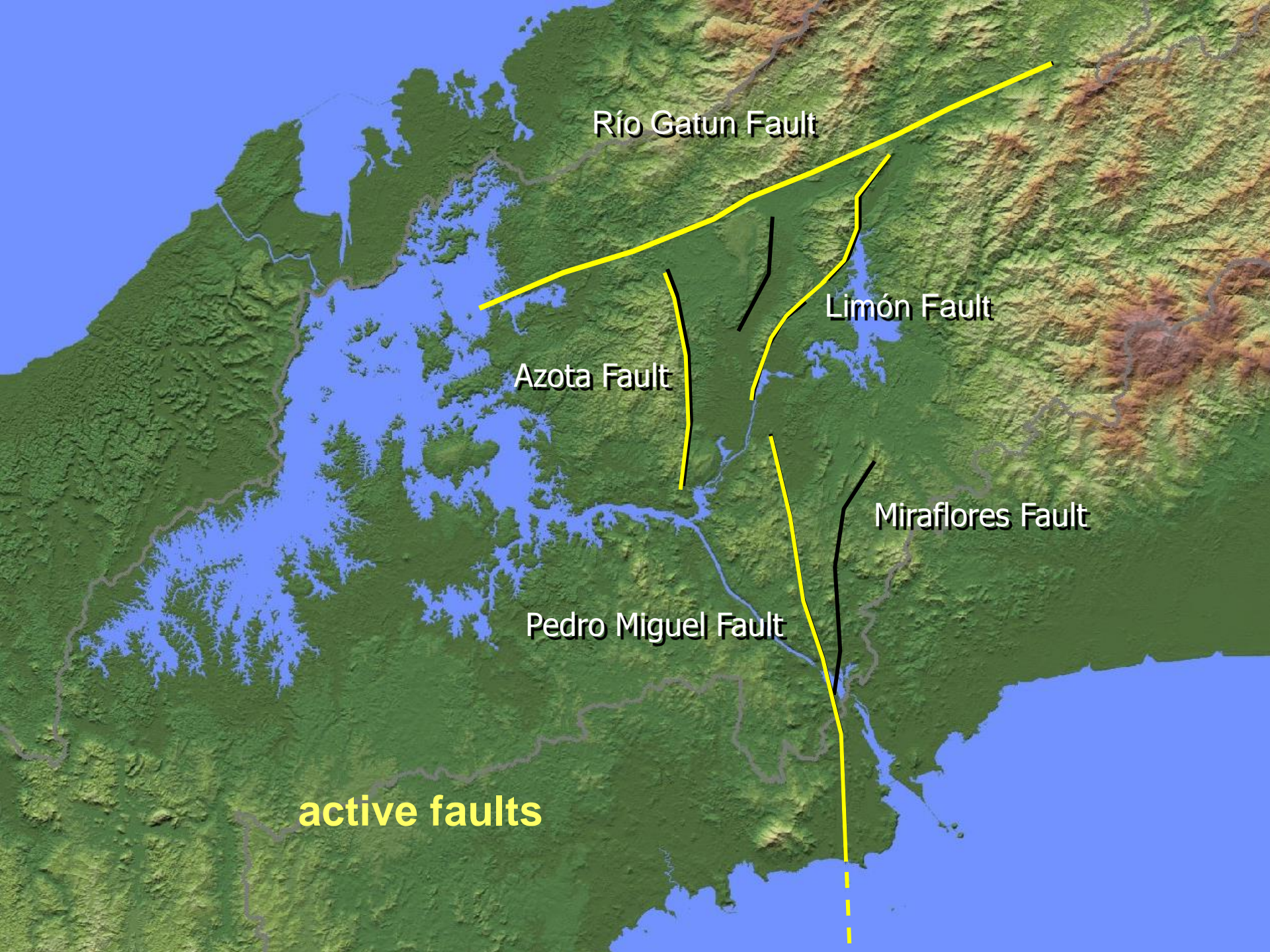


M 7.9 Richter (estimated)

## Paleoseismic investigations



Earth Consultants International  
William Lettis & Associates



Río Gatun Fault

Limón Fault

Azota Fault

Miraflores Fault

Pedro Miguel Fault

active faults

## Paleoseismic investigations

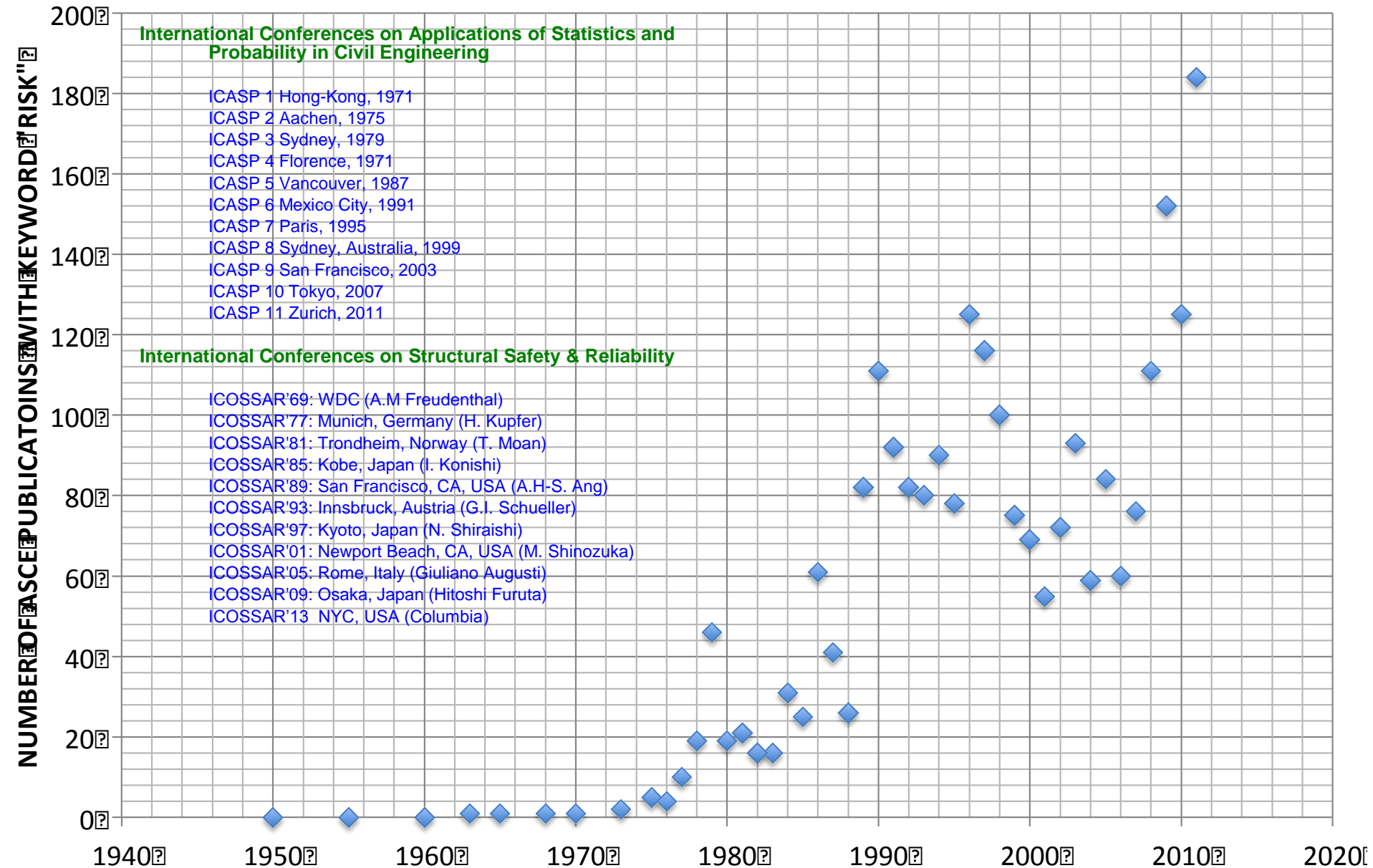


Earth Consultants International  
William Lettis & Associates



Pedro Miguel Fault



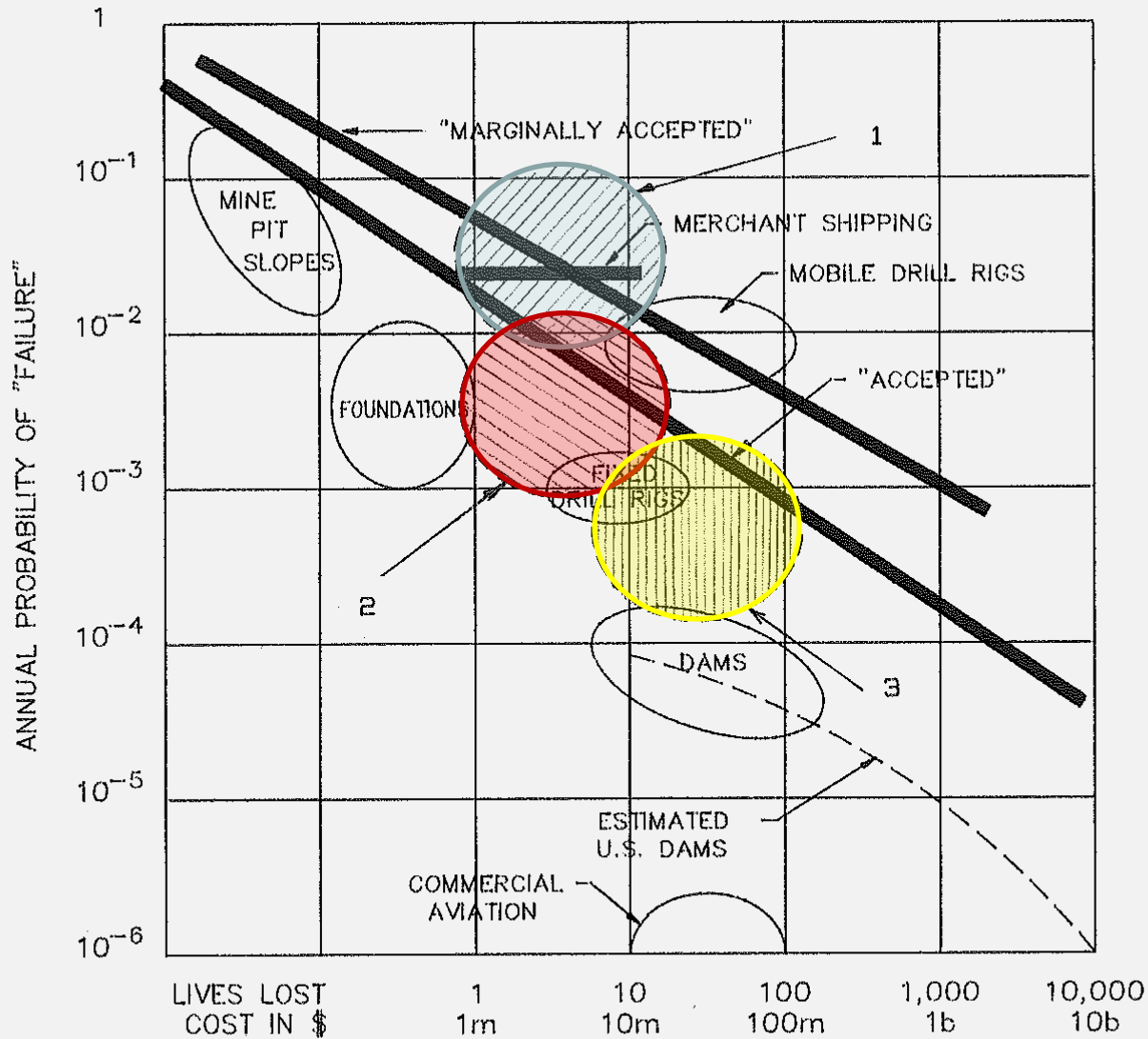




## History of the Management of Physical Risks in the Canal

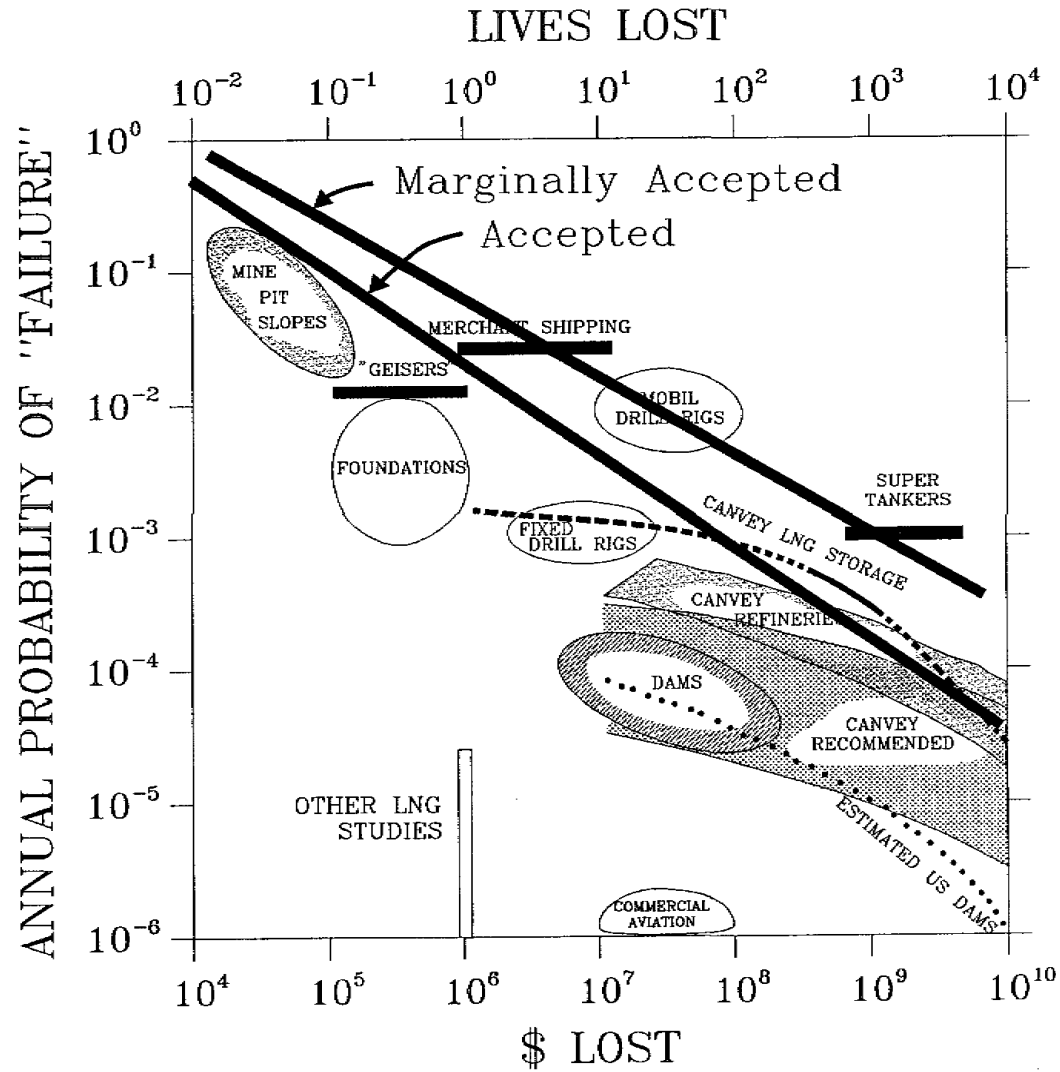
- **USACE design criteria (1904-1914)**
- **Flood Control Program (since construction)**
- **Protection of the Canal (since 1909)**
- **Landslide Control Program (modern program since 1968)**
- **Erosion Control Program (aggravated by larger ships and tugs)**
- **Dam Safety Program (since 1979)**
- **Corrosion Control (since construction)**
- **Structural codes for buildings (CZ Code was implemented 1907)**
- **Seismic Risk criteria (since 1991)**

Alfaro, L. (1988). "The risk of landslides in Gaillard Cut," Panama Canal Commission.



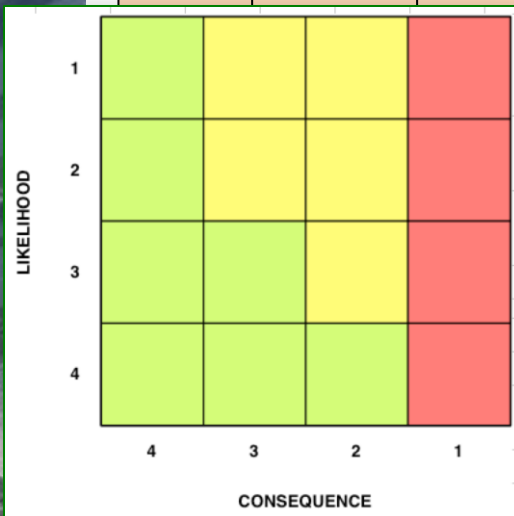
- 1 - Slopes in Gaillard Cut (no LCP)
- 2 - Slopes in Gaillard Cut (with LCP)
- 3 - Large Igneous Hills in Gaillard Cut

## TONEN Tank Farm (1978)



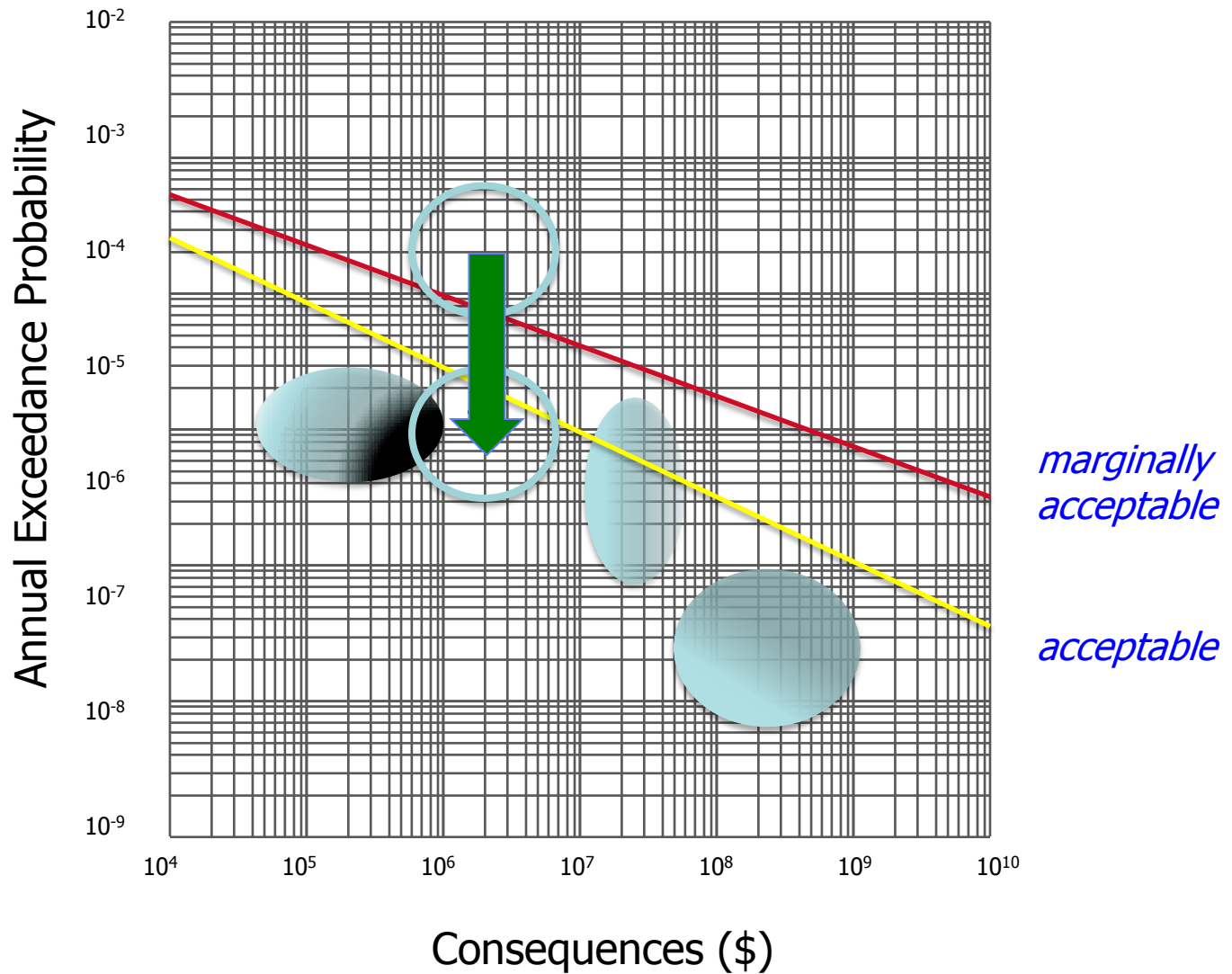
# Panama Canal Infrastructure Risk Administration

## Risk Register



#	Category	Structure	Event	Description	Component	Description	Failure Mode	Failure Cause	Likelihood of occurrence	Severity of consequences	Remark	Risk Index		
1	Spillways	Gatun spill	Floods	PMF	Gates	Steel structure, and all castings in concrete	Gate out of commission	Overload, mechanical, under maintenance or repair, impact by barge or large object	2	4	Se asumio la falla en una sola compuerta y la misma esta cerrada	0		
							Gate loss	Loose lateral support, under maintenance or repair, impact by barge or large object	3	3	Considering that one gate is lost and the flow is unrestricted. In this case nothing can be placed in the slot and the level reaches 69 feet in one week. **	0		
							Open gate can't be closed due to blockage	Debris blockage	1	3		0		
					Concrete piers		Concrete damage	Previous damage from EQ	4	4		0		
					Concrete main section		Cavitation	High water velocity	2	4		0		
							Stability issues	Uplift forces, overload, cavitation	4	1		1		
							Over stress in concrete	Overload	4	4		0		
					Discharge channel		Including baffle blocks, retaining walls, and spillway bridge piers	Cavitation	High water velocity and low water pressure	2	4		0	
								Loss of baffle blocks	Overload	3	4		0	
								Overtopping	Lack of discharge capacity and bank erosion behind walls	1	4	Criticality- Los contrafuertes evitarian la propagacion de la erosion aguas arriba y la perdida de la represa	0	
					Gate machinery		Mechanical, electrical, and control systems (control house and gallery)	Gate out of commission	Gate motor's circuit breaker tripped and/or motor failure	3	4		0	
									Motor damage	3	4		0	
					Earthquakes	MCE (Maximum Credible Earthquake)	Gates	Steel structure, and all castings in concrete	Gate out of commission	Welding failures, bending	3	3	C	0
									Gate jamming	Foot bridge collapse on top of gate	2	3	C queda abierta	2
									Concrete piers	Structural failure	Concrete overstressed	2	3	C

## Rational Investment Decisions (using F-N charts)

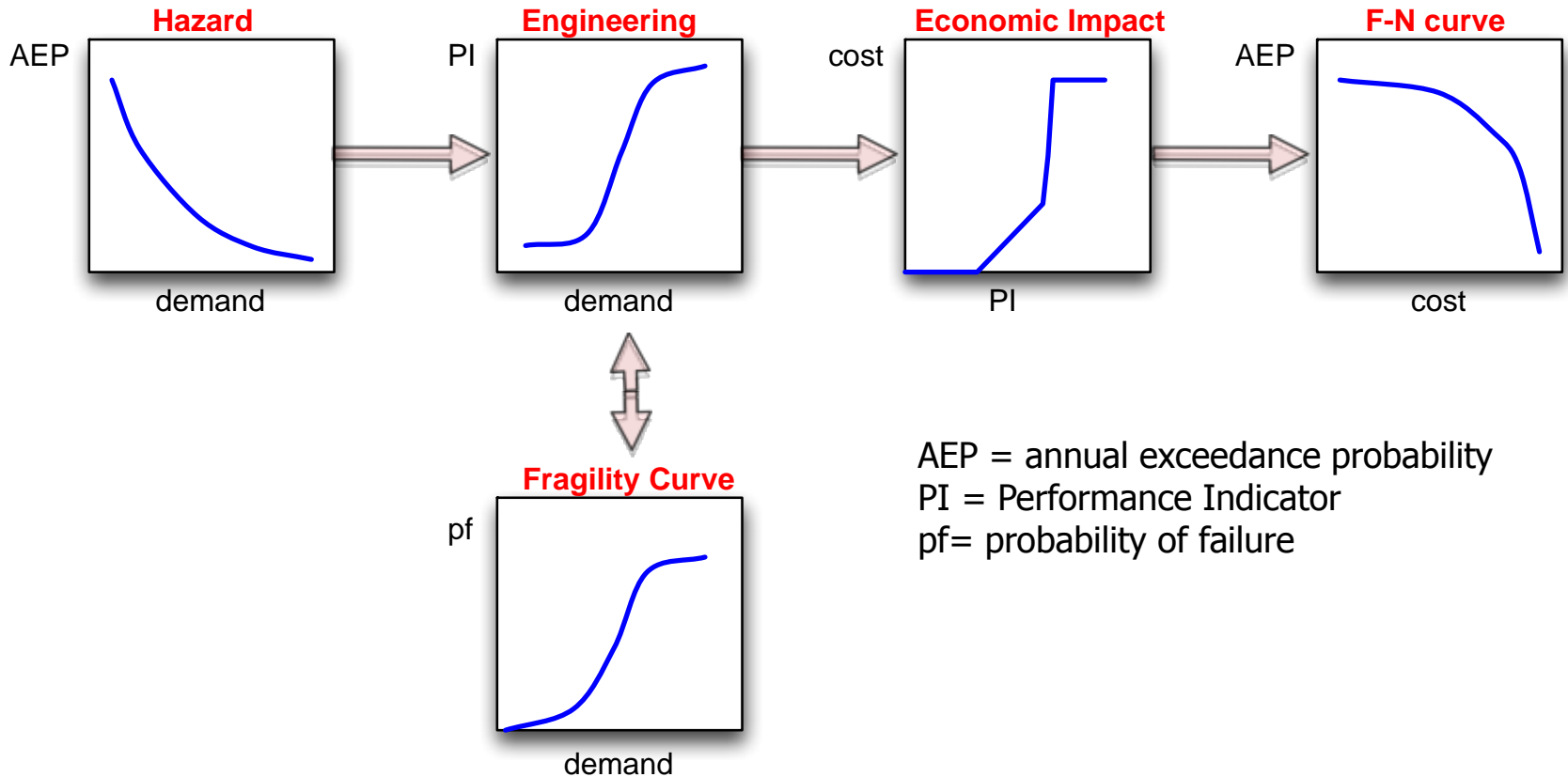


## Risk mitigation

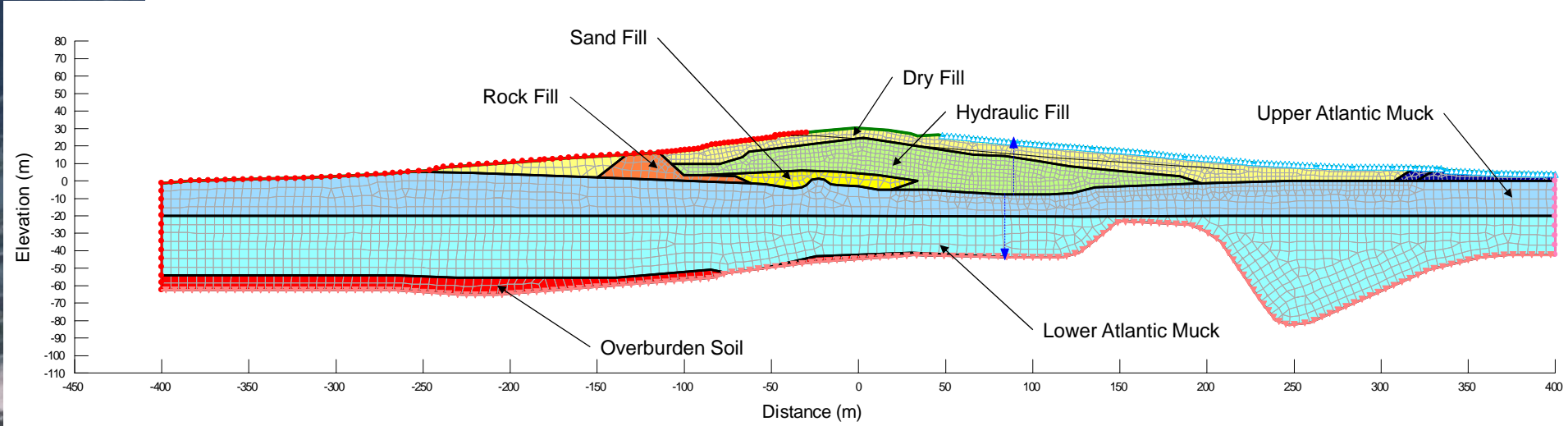
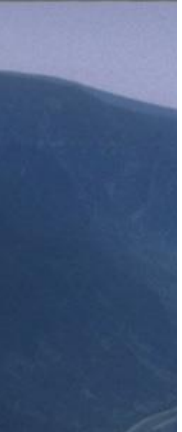
Type	Catastrophic Natural Risks	Chronic Natural Risks	Anthropogenic Risks
Drivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meteorological</li><li>• Seismic</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Time</li><li>• Degradation use</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Human activities</li></ul>
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Floods</li><li>• Earthquakes</li><li>• Landslides</li><li>• Droughts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Erosion</li><li>• Sedimentation</li><li>• Corrosion</li><li>• Aging</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Terrorism</li><li>• Sabotage</li><li>• Accidents</li></ul>
Mitigation Strategy	<i>Improve Capacity of Structures through Engineering Analysis</i>	<i>Implement Maintenance Programs through systematic inspections</i>	<i>Implement appropriate operations and protection policies</i>



# Risk Analysis Procedure

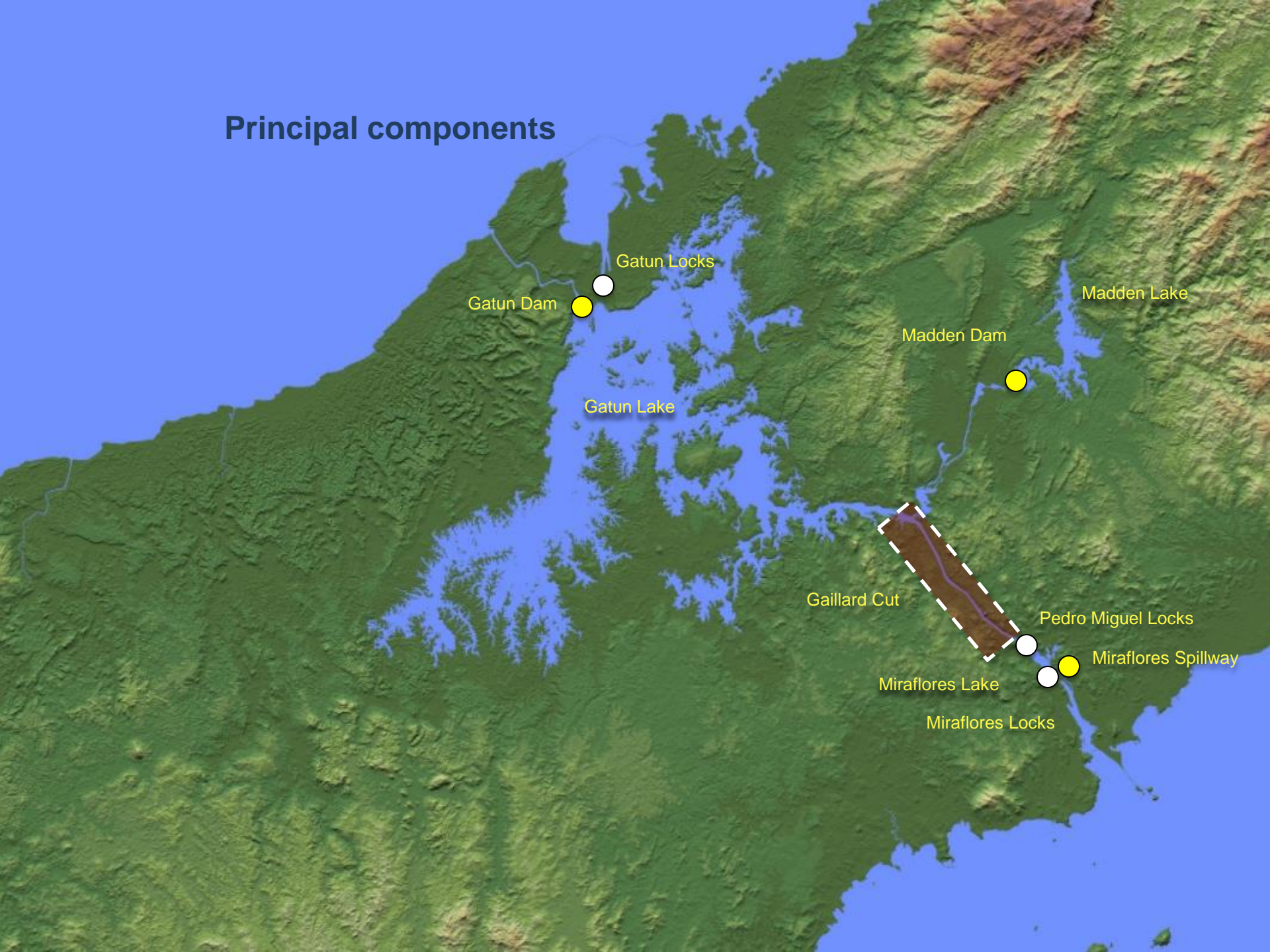


AEP = annual exceedance probability  
PI = Performance Indicator  
pf = probability of failure



Project No. 26818045	GATUN DAM & GATUN LAKE SADDLE DAMS EVALUATION	Analysis Section for Seepage Gatun Dam, East Embankment Section B	Figure 10-1
<b>URS</b>			

# Principal components



Gatun Dam

Gatun Locks

Gatun Lake

Madden Dam

Madden Lake

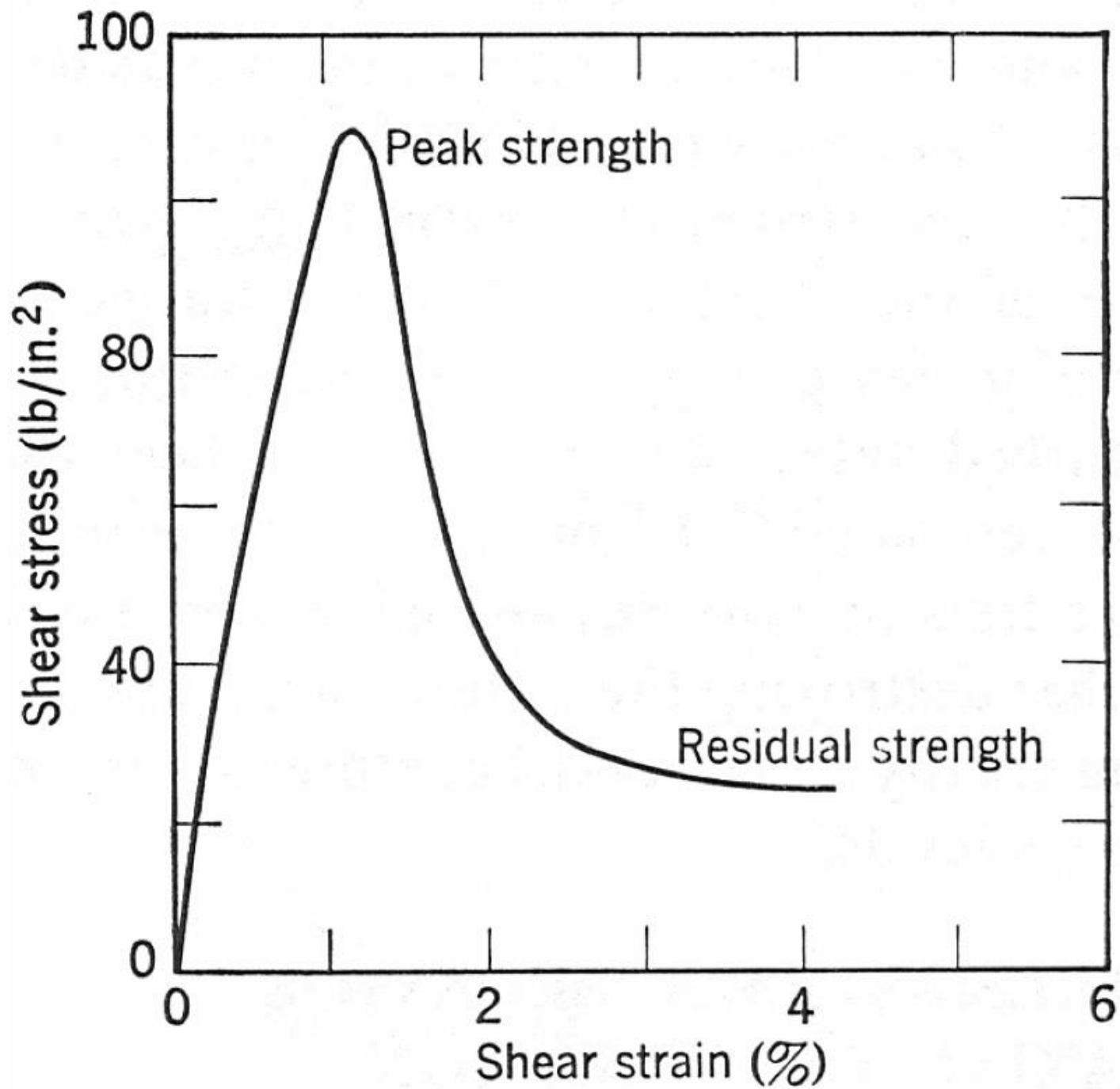
Gaillard Cut

Pedro Miguel Locks

Miraflores Spillway

Miraflores Lake

Miraflores Locks



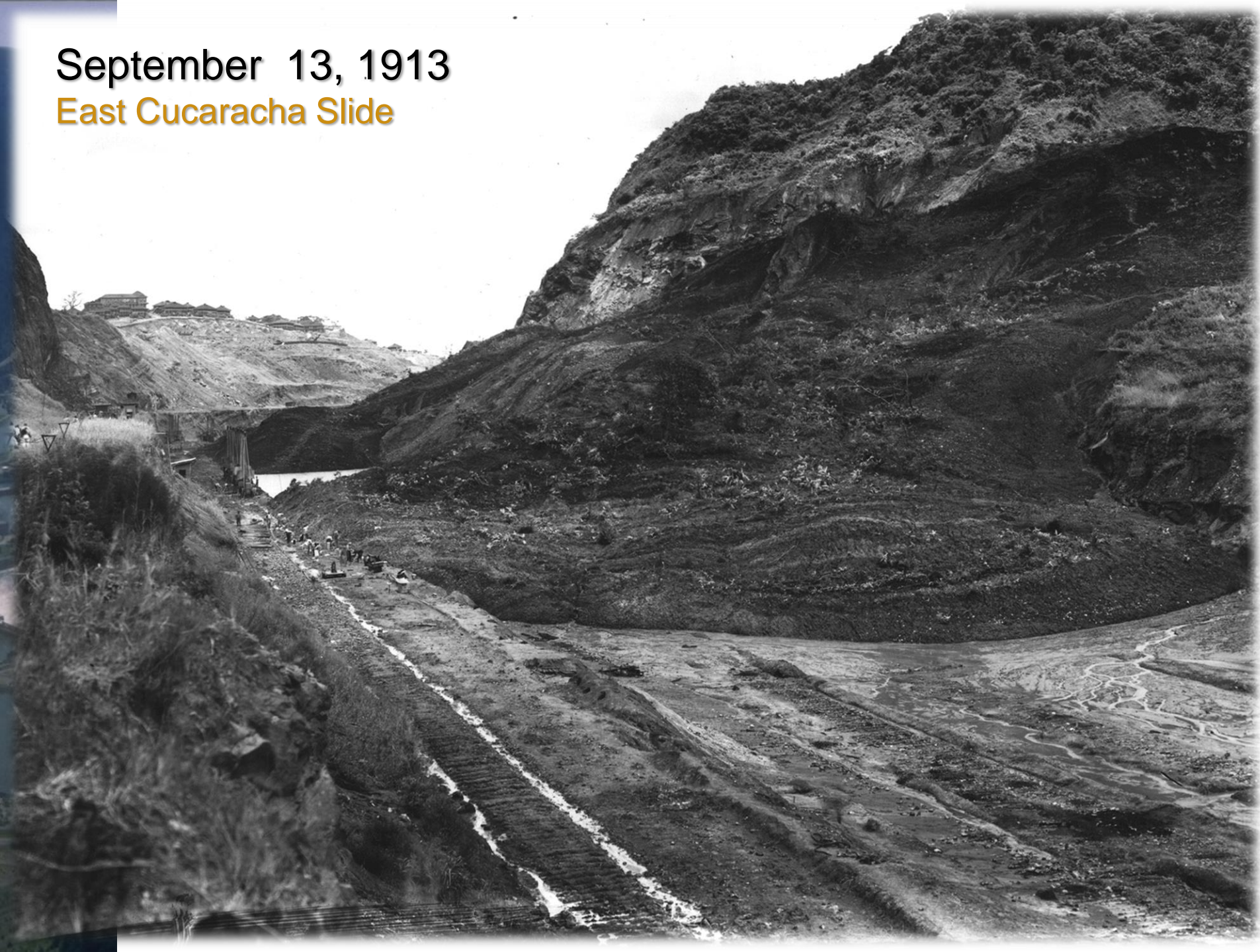
February 2, 1913  
East Cucaracha Slide



May 29, 1913  
East Cucaracha Slide

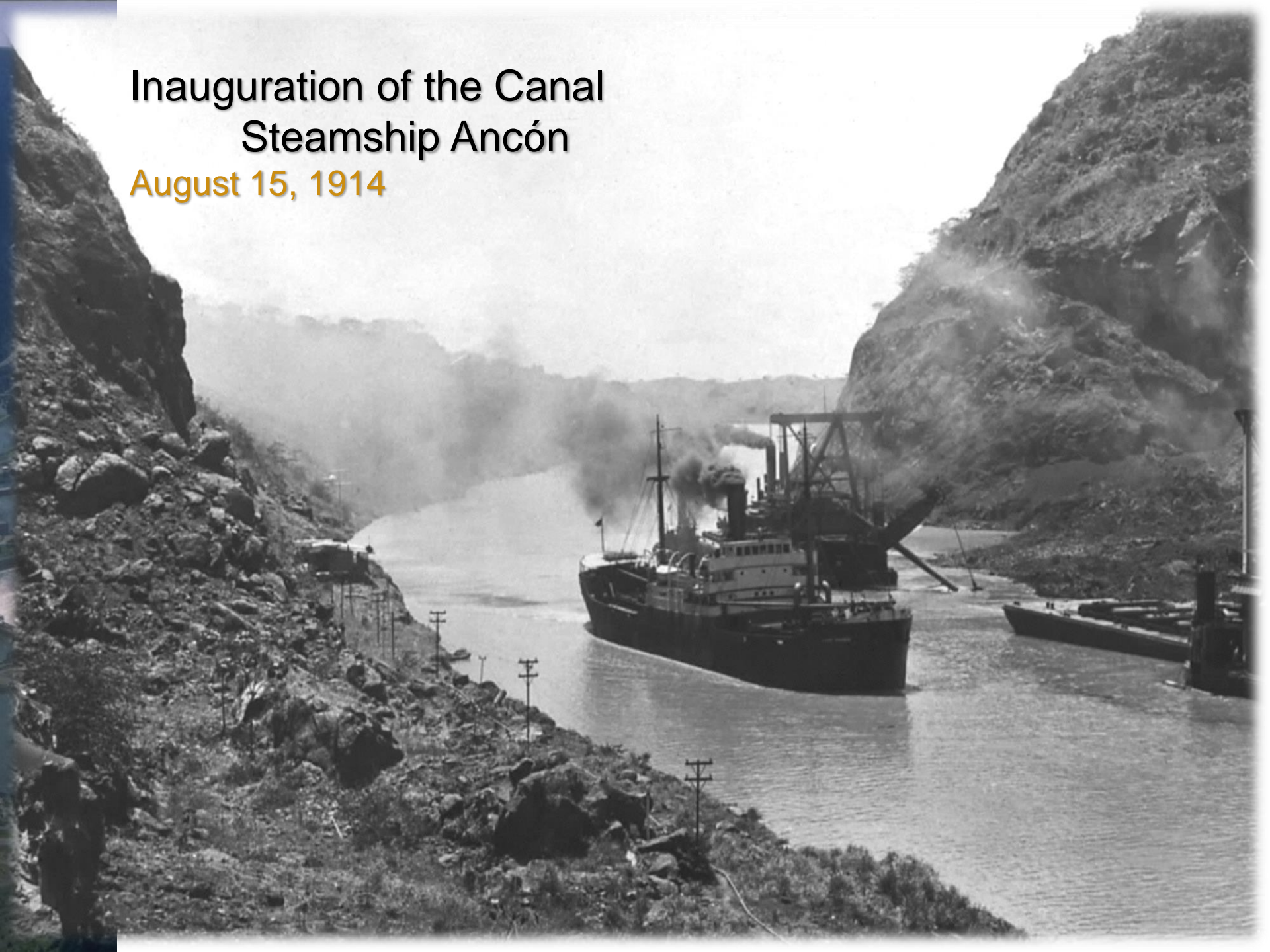


September 13, 1913  
East Cucaracha Slide

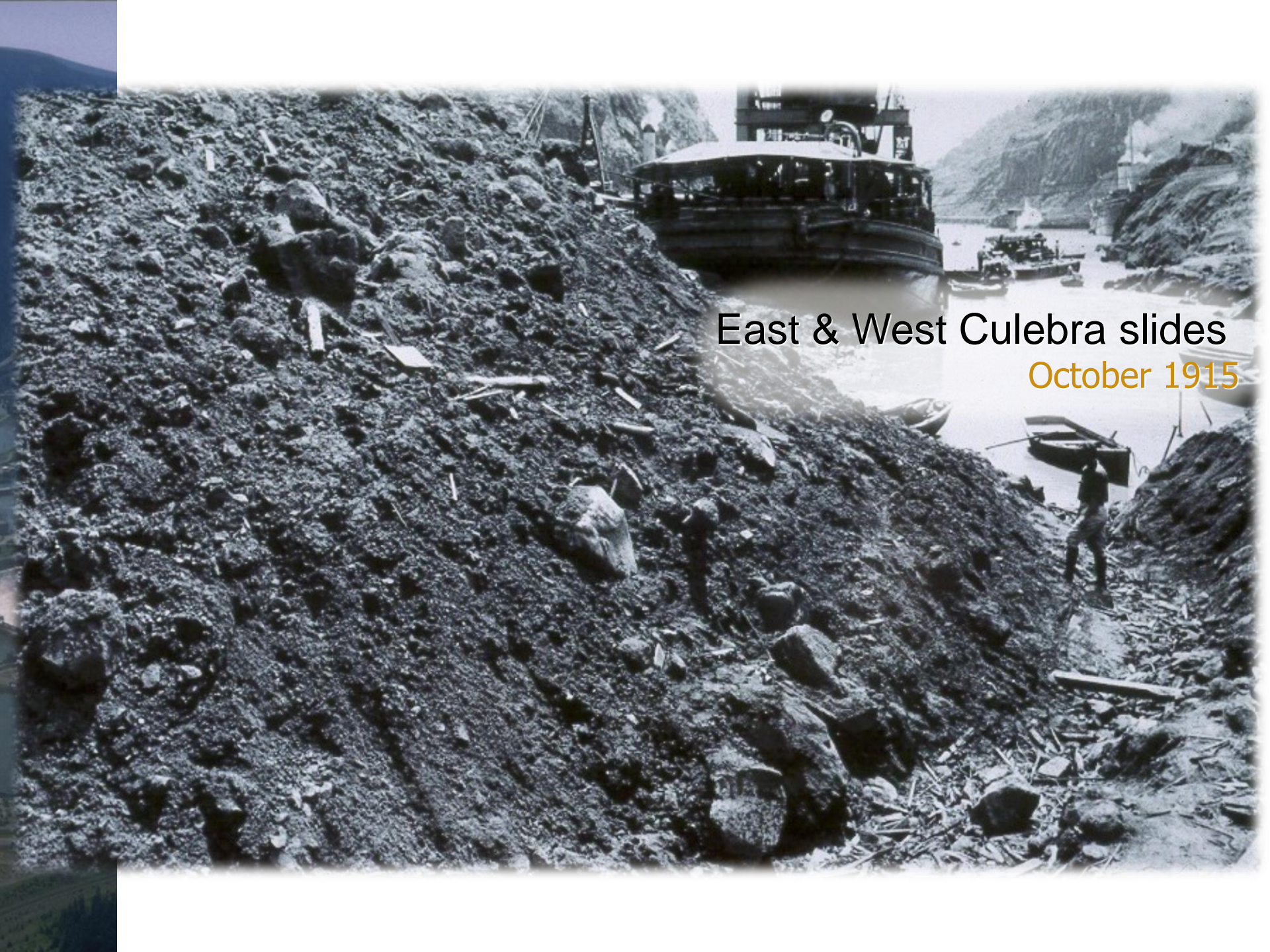


# Inauguration of the Canal Steamship Ancón

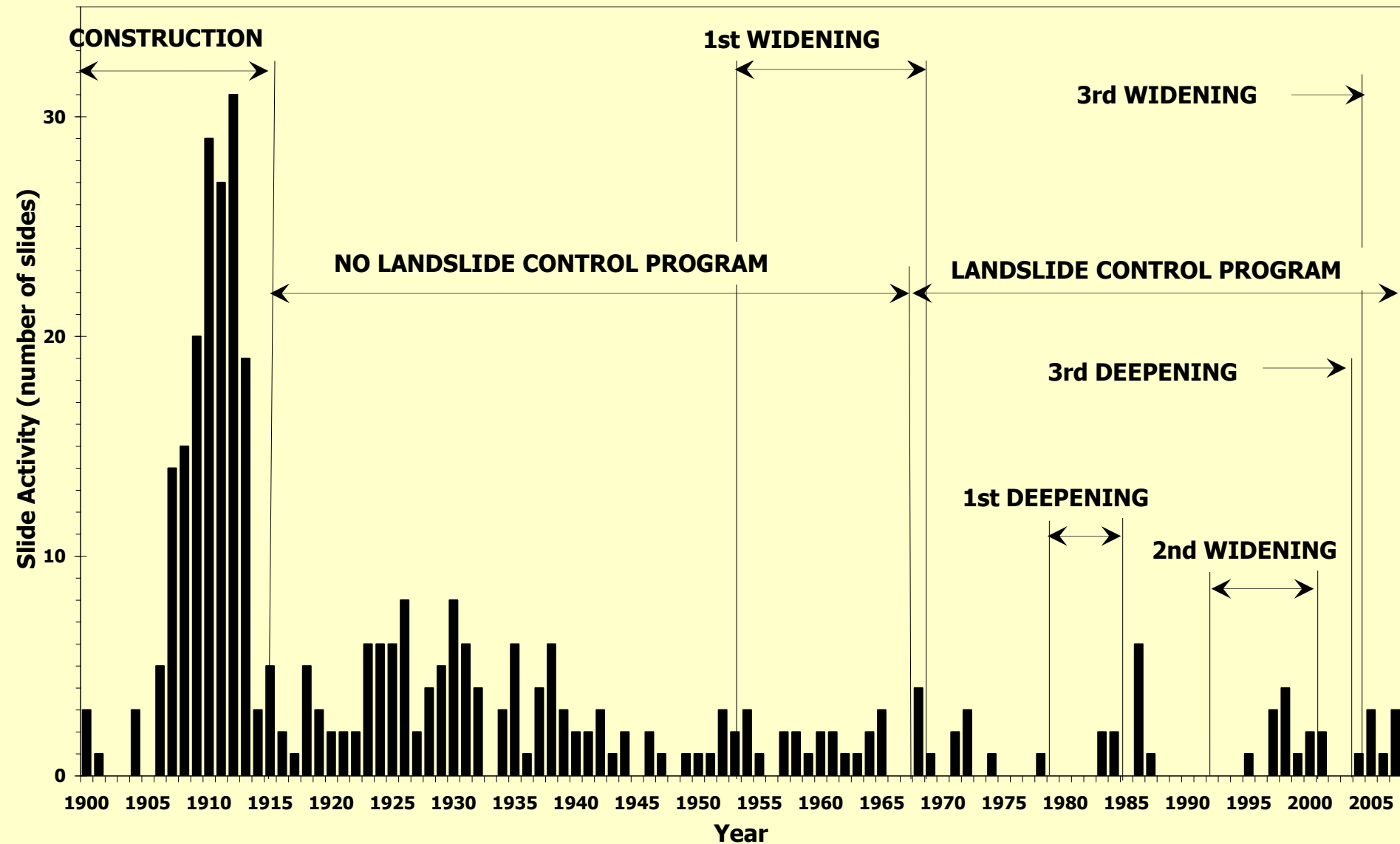
August 15, 1914







East & West Culebra slides  
October 1915



## TOP WIDTH OF EXCAVATION

FINAL WIDTH 1,800'

PLANNED WIDTH 670'

Initial height of Cut: 335' above sea level

Height of water surface of canal: 85' above sea level

Finished height of cut: 40' above sea level

*When surveys of Culebra Cut were first made by US engineers, it was thought a cut back at the top to 670 feet would be adequate for the hillside to remain stable in the area near Gold Hill. As it turned out, the top width had to be increased three times and the angle of repose, when the hillside remains stable, has never been achieved.*


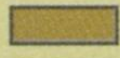
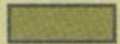
300' - 1914

500' - 1957-1971

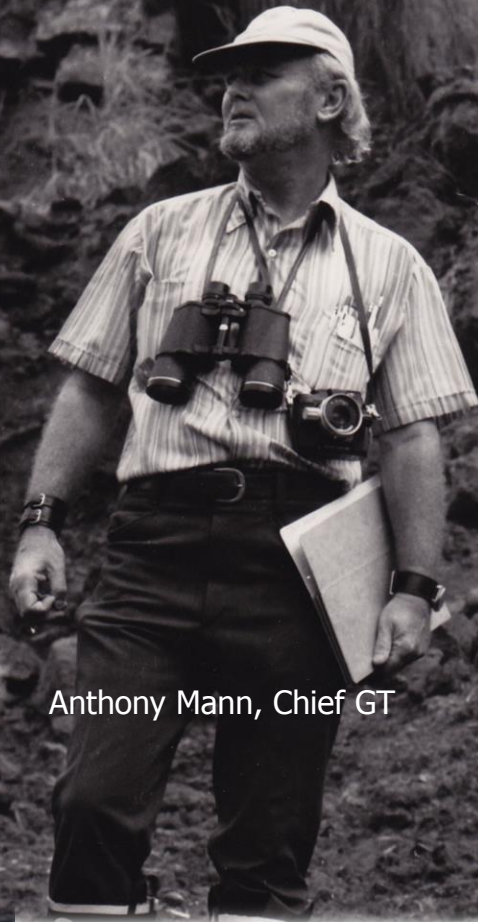
600' - 2002

## BOTTOM WIDTH OF CANAL

### *Culebra (or Gaillard) Cut*

-  French excavation - 19 million cubic yards
-  American excavation - 96 million cubic yards
-  Additional excavation of canal bottom

## Beginning of the landslide control program



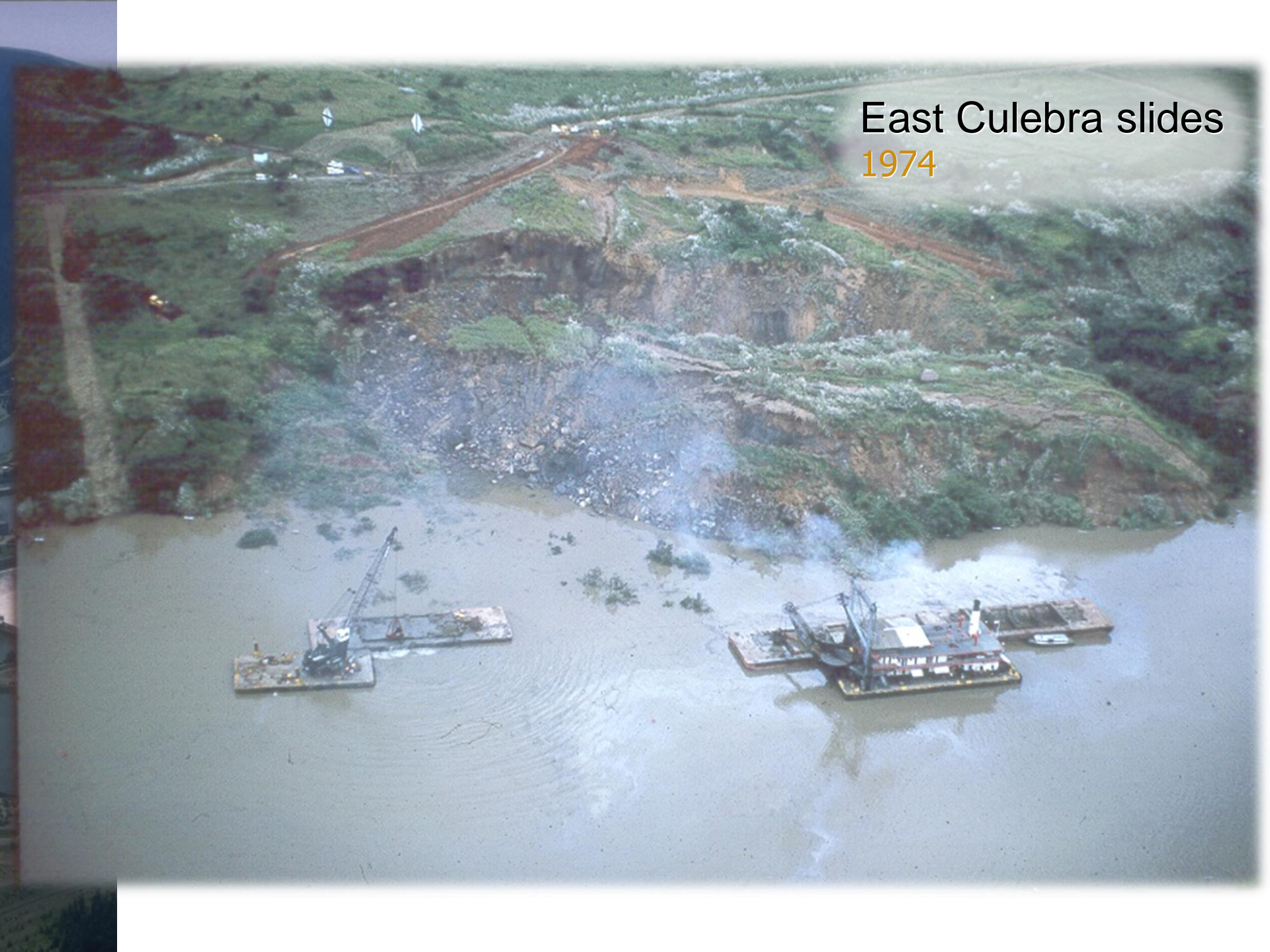
Anthony Mann, Chief GT

Chief of dredging

Arthur Casagrande  
(consultant 1968 – 1974)

VP Engineering

East Culebra slides  
1974

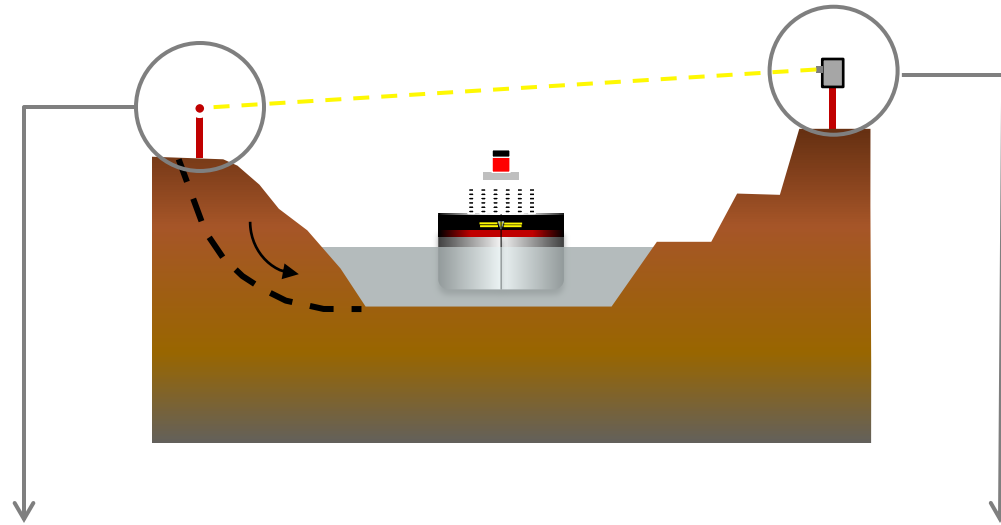


# East Cucaracha Slide

October 13, 1986

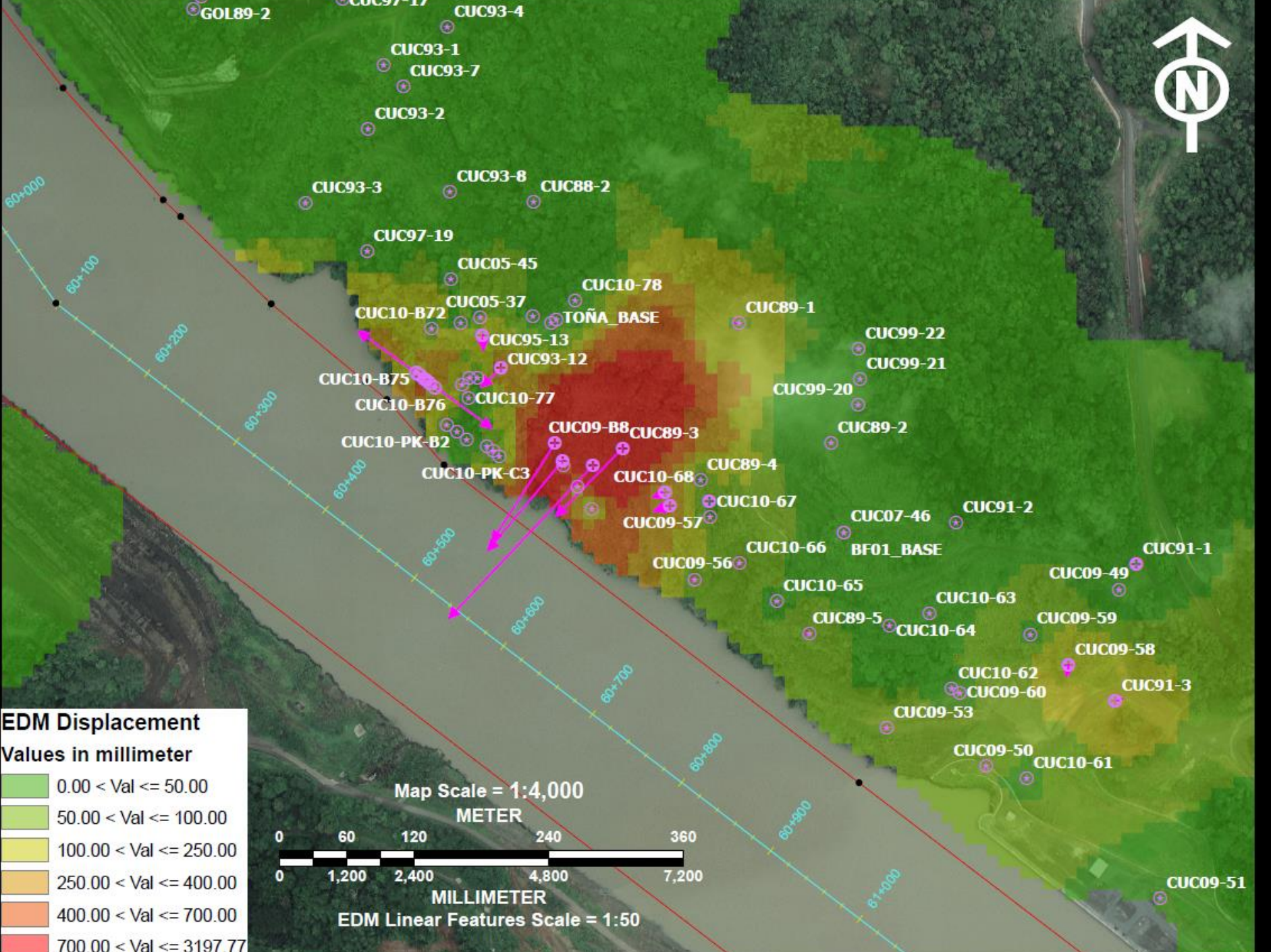


## Modern Landslide Control Program



Threshold Values  
> 30mm / month  
> 100mm / year





**EDM Displacement**  
Values in millimeter

0.00 < Val <= 50.00
50.00 < Val <= 100.00
100.00 < Val <= 250.00
250.00 < Val <= 400.00
400.00 < Val <= 700.00
700.00 < Val <= 3197.77

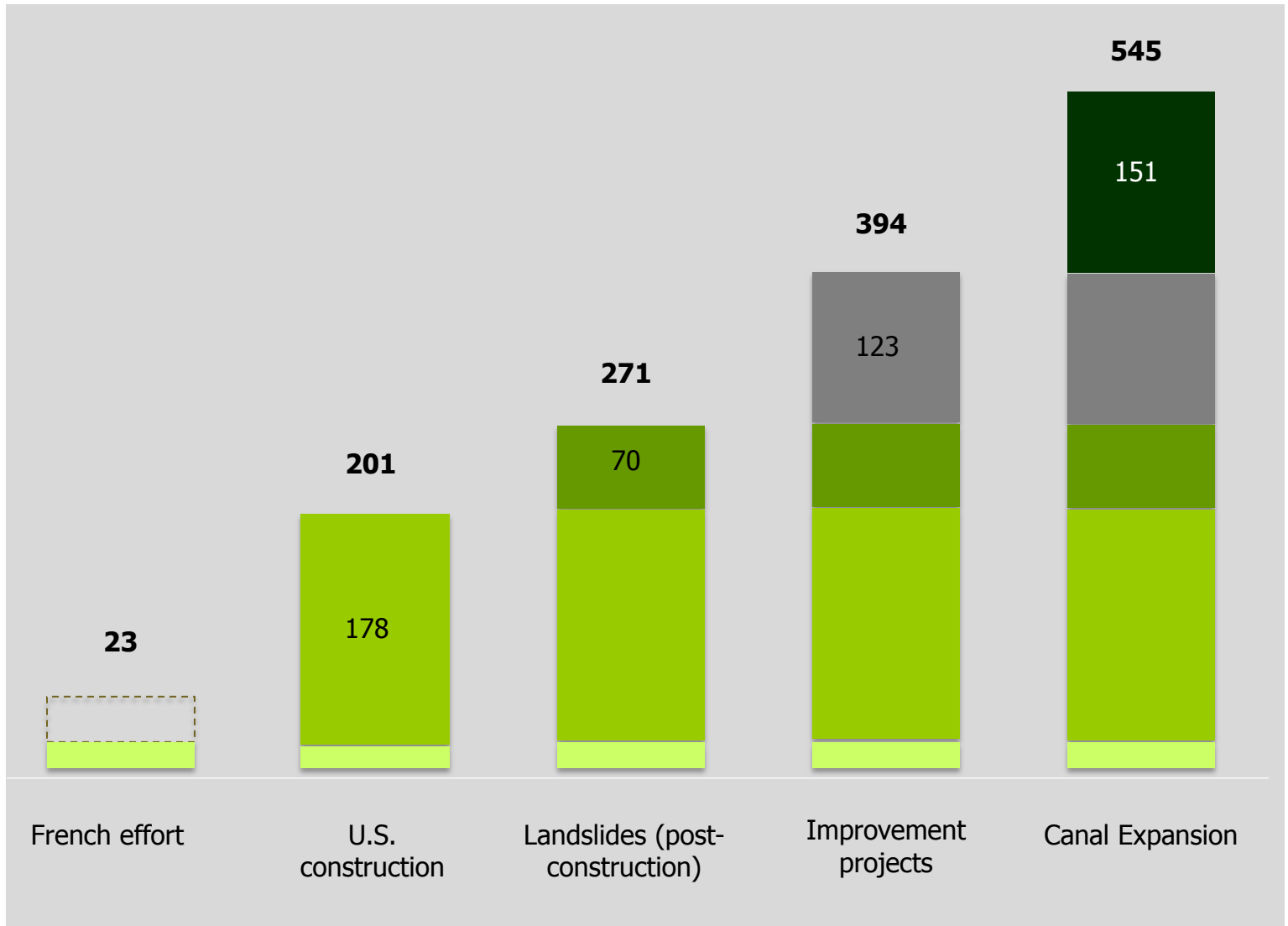
Map Scale = 1:4,000  
METER

0 60 120 240 360  
0 1,200 2,400 4,800 7,200  
MILLIMETER

EDM Linear Features Scale = 1:50



## Historical Excavation Volumes (Mm<sup>3</sup>)

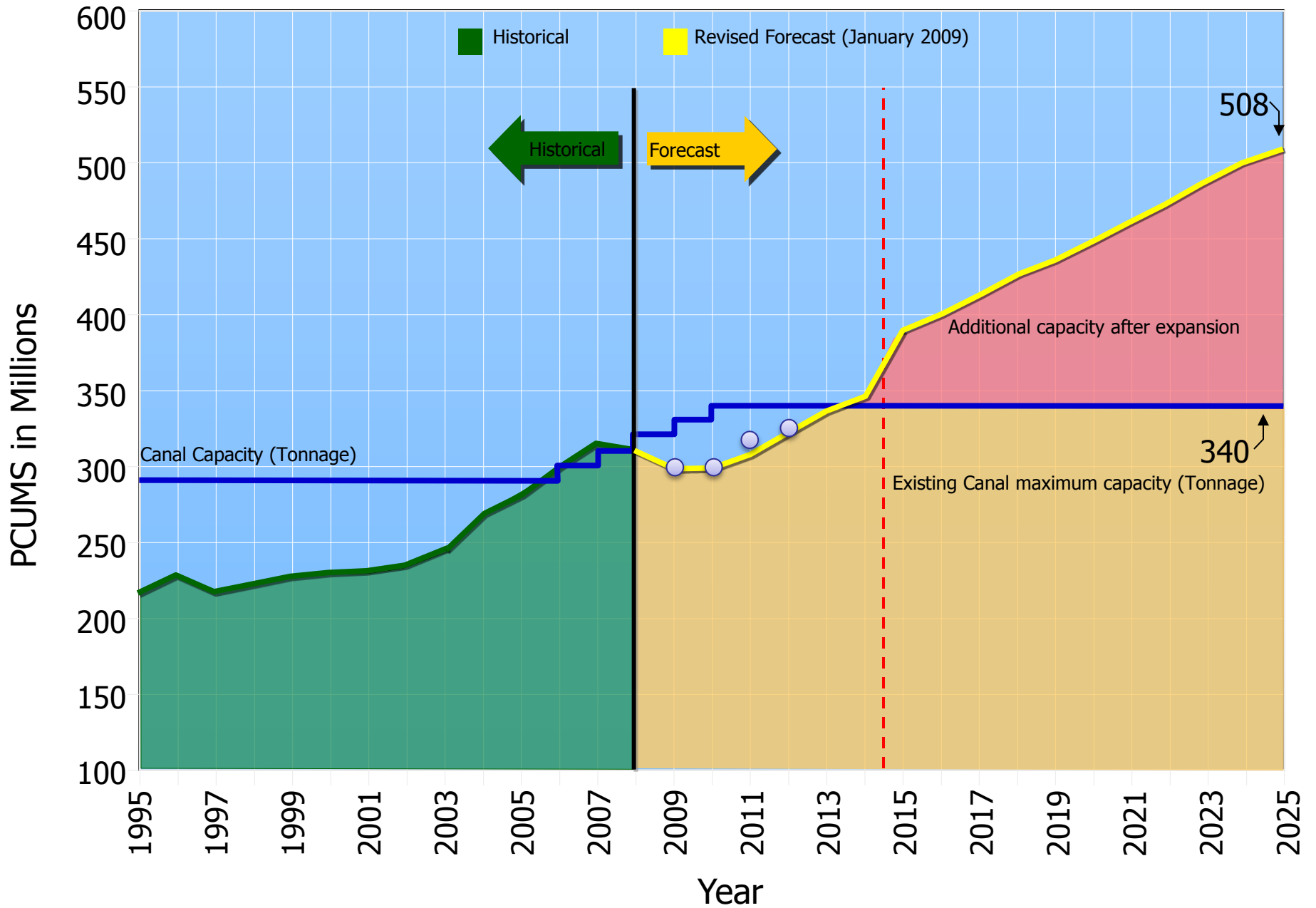






## The new 3d locks





# New Atlantic Locks



2.10M m3 of structural concrete

## New Pacific Locks



2.34M m<sup>3</sup> of structural concrete

Thank you.



CANAL DE PANAMÁ





Thank you.

