

The El Paso Desalination Project

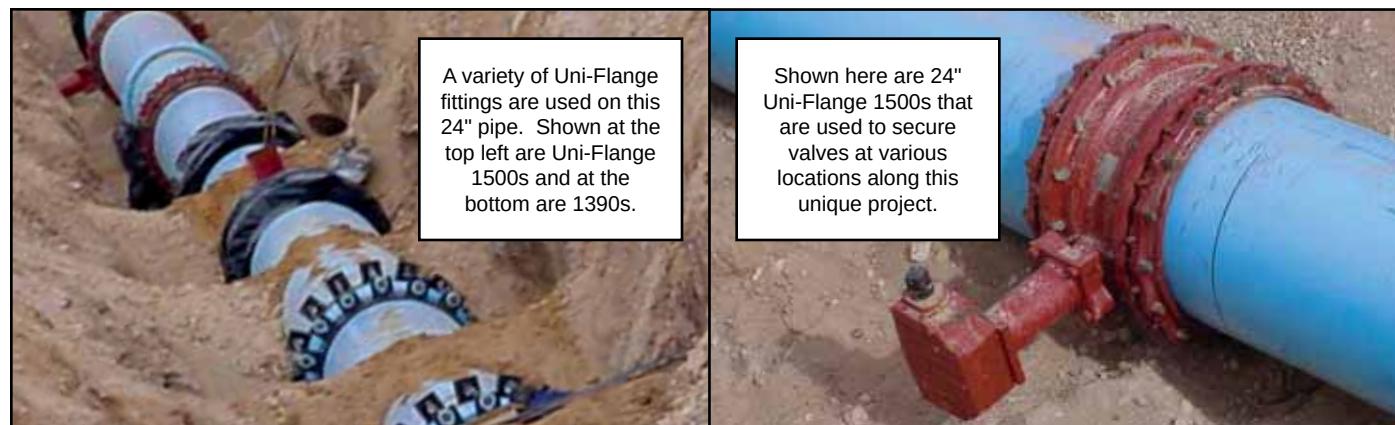
Many water operators proudly display bumper stickers and clothing insignia with the words, "Water Is Life." Nowhere does that truth have more impact, than with desert populations. El Paso, Texas is one such location where squeezing the last drop of potable water from available sources is a top priority.

How can a utility stretch limited resources when there are no major bodies of accessible surface water and the Rio Grande is being siphoned by many thirsty users? Desalination is the answer. The brackish groundwater around El Paso presents challenges of salt removal and solids and contaminant control. In Texas alone, there are 2.7 billion acre-feet of brackish groundwater waiting to be utilized, and advancing technology is making desalination more economically feasible.

El Paso Water, the U.S. Army at Ft. Bliss, the Texas Water Development Board, and others have pooled knowledge and financing to embark on the construction of an \$87,000,000 system that will increase potable water supplies by 27.5 million gallons per day (MGD), or 25%. Infrastructure construction will include a treatment plant, wells, and transmission lines. This significant project called for unique solutions. That's why these individuals chose to rely on Uni-Flange restraint products.

For more information on Ford's ability to supply your unique project requirements, contact your local Ford distributor or The Ford Meter Box Company.

by Bob Talabay, Ford Meter Box Southwestern Regional Manager



Ford Meter Box is participating in the construction of a blending line for this project with Uni-Flange Restraints furnished by Clowe & Cowan of El Paso and installed by NCT Construction. The large PVC pipelines include valves, fittings and pipe joints. Uni-Flange 1500s and 1300s for mechanical joint restraint, and Uni-Flange 1390s for harnessing bell and spigot connections have a role in what is to be the world's largest inland desalination plant.

