

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

COLORADO RIVER U.S.-MEXICO JOINT COOPERATIVE PROCESS

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1944 WATER TREATY COLORADO RIVER

- ◆ U.S. to deliver to Mexico a volume of 1.5 maf/year
- ◆ When there are surplus waters, Mexico may receive an additional 200 kaf
- ◆ In extraordinary drought, Mexico reduced in proportion to U.S.
- ◆ U.S. has always met its delivery obligation



Northerly International Boundary



COLORADO RIVER JOINT COOPERATIVE PROCESS

- IBWC has convened stakeholders to address the means to enhance U.S.-Mexico cooperation
- ◆ 4 Work Groups established in 2008:
 - ▶ New Water Sources – augmentation projects, esp. desal
 - ▶ System Operations – delivery efficiencies and modeling
 - ▶ Environment – habitat enhancement
 - ▶ Conservation -- agricultural water conservation

Work Group Meeting in Tijuana



MINUTE 317 (2010)



**Colorado River below
Morelos Dam**

- ◆ Framework for U.S.-Mexico cooperation on Colorado River
- ◆ Formalized the 4 Work Groups
- ◆ Provides for consultation with the affected states on policy and legal issues
- ◆ Notes topics of interest to both countries:
 - ▶ Identifying new water sources
 - ▶ Improving system operations
 - ▶ Minimizing impact of shortages
 - ▶ Permitting Mexico to store water in the United States
 - ▶ Water conservation
 - ▶ Identifying water for environmental purposes



MINUTE 318 (2010)

- ◆ Responds to April 2010 earthquake in Mexicali Valley
- ◆ Allows Mexico to postpone water deliveries until it can repair earthquake damage
- ◆ Allows for change of delivery schedule for 2010-2013 if requested by Mexico
- ◆ 2011 delivery adjusted downward by 50 kaf
- ◆ Mexico has requested 130 kaf downward adjustment in 2012
- ◆ Water will be delivered later at Mexico's request



Damaged canal in Mexicali Valley



STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT



Stakeholder Meeting June 2011

- ◆ Work Groups include states, water user groups, NGOs
- ◆ USIBWC committed to close coordination and consultation with Basin States and Reclamation
- ◆ Outreach to stakeholders at conferences, Citizens Forum meetings, etc.



2011 ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Formation of Commissioner-level Leadership Team:
 - ▶ IBWC (U.S. and Mx), Reclamation, Dept. of the Interior
- ◆ Meetings of Leadership Team, Work Groups, stakeholders
- ◆ Technical analysis and modeling
- ◆ Field Trip of lower Colorado River in U.S. for Mexican water managers

**Reclamation and IBWC
Commissioners at Leadership
Team meeting**



2011 ACTIVITIES



Water for the Cienega de Santa Clara Wetland is an environmental concern

- ◆ Leadership Team identified key and fundamental issues for a comprehensive agreement:
 - ▶ Shortage management
 - ▶ Surplus sharing
 - ▶ Flexibility in water deliveries to Mexico
 - ▶ Exchange of water
 - ▶ Water for the environment
 - ▶ Salinity



ISSUES AND PROJECTS

◆ Proposed Projects



All-American Canal

- ▶ **Pilot water conservation project** – a regulating reservoir in Mexico along the Alamo-Reforma Canal
- ▶ **Fallowing in Mexico** – water savings could be used for environmental purposes
- ▶ **Use by Mexico of the All-American Canal** - construction of a Mexican turnout for use during emergencies involving Mexican infrastructure



ISSUES AND PROJECTS



Clearing salt cedar
at restoration site

- ◆ Proposed Projects
 - ▶ **Pilot environmental restoration project** – a 50-acre site in Mexico across Colorado River from Hunter’s Hole restoration in U.S.
 - ▶ **Binational seawater desalination plant near Tijuana**



ISSUES AND PROJECTS

- ◆ Mexico has proposed consideration of additional projects in 2012:
 - ▶ Cleanup and use of the New River
 - ▶ Desalination plant in the Sea of Cortez (south of AZ border)
 - ▶ Water conservation project in Mexicali irrigation district
 - ▶ Aquifer monitoring



New River at Calexico-Mexicali



CURRENT STATUS

- ◆ IBWC is discussing the issues and projects mentioned
- ◆ Mexico has linked its participation in shortage to its participation in surplus and a U.S.-Mexico commitment to environmental restoration
- ◆ Goal of reaching agreement by spring 2012

**Colorado River Leadership
Team meeting**



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