



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section





Master Planning International Watershed Initiative

Gabriel Duran, P.E.
Civil Engineer Planner,
USIBWC





USIBWC Mission

*The International Boundary and Water Commission,
United States and Mexico,
is responsible for applying
the boundary and water treaties
between the two countries
and settling differences
that arise in their application.*





International Watershed Initiative

View of the shared drainage areas along the international boundary

- Each basin is unique dependent upon local needs and circumstances
- Desirable to try to anticipate or resolve issues at the local or basin level
- Find more effective ways to engage the public
- Involve other partners



United States/Canadian Watersheds



Pollution Entering the Tijuana River



Tijuana, B.C.

Guadalupe Victoria Area

32 31' 25.25" N 116 54' 53.79" W

**One Source of Pollution
Entering the Tijuana River**





1944 Water Treaty

Treaty of February 3, 1944 –

- Distributed the waters in the international segment of the Rio Grande
- Also authorized the two countries to construct operate and maintain dams on the main channel of the Rio Grande
- The 1944 treaty also changed the name of the IBC to the International Boundary And Water Commission (IBWC)
- Entrusted the IBWC to give preferential attention to the solution of all border sanitation problems



SIGNING OF THE 1944 WATER TREATY at Washington, D.C. on February 3, 1944. At end of table, seated, is United States Secretary of State Cordell Hull signing the document, and to his right, also seated, is Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary F. Castillo Najera. Seated to Secretary Hull's left are United States Ambassador George S. Messersmith (nearest Hull) and United States Commissioner, IBWC, Lawrence M. Lawson. To Secretary Najera's right is Rafael Fernandez McGregor, Mexican Commissioner, IBWC. Standing to the left at the door is the U.S. Section Legal Counsel Frank B. Clayton.



IBWC Minutes

- Formalize IBWC agreements
- Legally binding
- Take effect upon signature and approval by both Governments
- Over 300 Minutes



IBWC Minute



International Projects

Nuevo Laredo International Wastewater Treatment Plant

Minute 279

Joint Measures to Improve the Quality of the Waters of the Rio Grande at Laredo, Texas/Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas

The Commission referred to the 1944 Water Treaty

The Commission referred to the spirit of cooperation between the two Governments on Cooperation for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment

Nuevo Laredo International Wastewater Treatment Plant



Pollution Source Location and Monitoring



International Boundary and Water Commission
United States Section





International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

