



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States and Mexico

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### COMMISSION RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, has received a Partners in Conservation Award for its work on Minute 319, a historic Colorado River agreement signed in 2012. The award was presented to the Commission by U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell at a ceremony in Washington, DC on January 16, 2014. U.S. Ambassador to Mexico E. Anthony Wayne and Undersecretary Sergio Alcocer of Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Relations participated in the ceremony along with U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina and Mexican Commissioner Roberto Salmon of the International Boundary and Water Commission and other officials from both countries.



The Partners in Conservation Award is a U.S. Department of the Interior Honor Award established to recognize conservation achievements that include collaborative activity among a diverse range of entities. The award recognizes the contribution of both Interior and non-Interior personnel for outstanding conservation work that has been produced primarily because of the engagement and contribution of many partners.

Minute 319, "Interim International Cooperative Measures in the Colorado River Basin through 2017 and Extension of Minute 318 Cooperative Measures to Address the Continued Effects of the April 2010 Earthquake in the Mexicali Valley, Baja California," provides for a series of joint cooperative actions between the two countries related to water storage, management during high and low reservoir conditions, salinity, investment in water conservation projects to benefit both countries, and water for the environment. In recognizing Minute 319, Interior cited the first-ever environmental flows to the Colorado River Delta.

In developing and implementing Minute 319, the Commission teamed with various entities in both countries. The award also recognizes other partners from the governments of both countries, the seven U.S. Colorado River Basin states, non-governmental organizations, and academia.

"Minute 319 gives the United States and Mexico new tools to improve management of the Colorado River to benefit both countries," said U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina of the International Boundary and Water Commission. "The Commission is proud to accept this award."

Mexican Commissioner Roberto Salmon highlighted the importance of this agreement by emphasizing that it constitutes a historic event, which, by using the 1944 Water Treaty as its basis, enables work to build toward the future in order to guarantee sustainability in the region and in particular future water supply for Mexican communities. He highlighted that this

agreement provides the foundation for future unprecedented negotiations to benefit Colorado River basin residents in both countries.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries. Under the 1944 Water Treaty, Mexico is allotted 1.5 million acre-feet (1850 million cubic meters) per year of water from the Colorado River.

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