MINUTE SIGNINGS
WITH THE US AND MEXICO

Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary
October 12, 2017
Rio Grande Citizens Forum
Decisions of the Commission are recorded in the form of Minutes.

Minutes are binding agreements of the IBWC intended to implement treaty.

They take effect once approved by both nations’ foreign affairs ministries.

323 Minutes to date.
3 Minutes signed in 2017:
- Minute 321 – Vehicle Decals
- Minute 322 – Emergency Delivery of Water to Tijuana
- Minute 323 – Colorado River cooperation

Most recent Rio Grande Minutes
- Minute 315 – Rio Grande boundary map
- Minute 313 – Rio Grande channel maintenance

Min. 323 ceremony
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

Mexico diverts most of its allotment at Morelos Dam.
COLORADO RIVER
JOINT COOPERATIVE PROCESS

1999          Lake Mead          2006
COLORADO RIVER
JOINT COOPERATIVE PROCESS

- 7 U.S. Basin States & 2 federal governments asked IBWC to convene stakeholders.
- 4 Work Groups established in 2008
- Min. 319 signed in 2012 as a 5-year pilot project for Colorado River cooperation
- Min. 323 expands and extends Min. 319 actions through 2026

Minute 319 signing in San Diego, CA
MINUTE 323

- **Mexico’s Water Reserve**
  - Allows Mexico to defer water delivery due to earthquakes, emergencies, or conservation
  - Water available for subsequent delivery to Mexico
  - Gives Mexico flexibility in water management
  - Boosts Lake Mead elevation to benefit all users

Under previous Minutes, Mexico deferred deliveries after an earthquake damaged canals.
MINUTE 323

- Provides additional Colorado River water to Mexico during high elevation reservoir conditions
- Applies delivery reductions to Mexico during low reservoir conditions
- Establishes a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan
Morelos Dam at the US-Mx border.

- Minute 242 (1973) requires salinity of deliveries to Mexico to be similar to quality of water delivered to U.S. users
- US and Mexico will operate system to minimize salinity impacts of Min. 323 actions
- Improved salinity monitoring
- Identifies measures to address daily flow variability in deliveries to Mexico
Generates water for the environment

210 kaf+ of water for environment

U.S. investment in Mexico to cover 1/3 of this volume

Mexico and NGOs cover the rest

Focus on water for habitat restoration sites
MINUTE 323

- $31.5 M from US for projects in Mexico
- Mexico derives long-term benefits from waters conserved from U.S. investment
- 109 kaf for U.S. water agencies, 70 kaf for environment, and 50 kaf for system storage
- Work Group to explore binational connection for All-American Canal

U.S. entities to fund projects like canal lining.
“Extension of the Temporary Emergency Delivery of Colorado River Water for Use in Tijuana, Baja California”

- Allows Mx to use U.S. aqueduct to supply water to Tijuana in the event of emergencies.
- Extends long-time practice.

Min. 322 signing in El Paso, TX, Jan. 19, 2017
“Official Means of Identification of Vehicles and other Equipment Crossing the International Boundary on Official Business of the Commission or of either Section”

- Adopts a new seal to more readily identify vehicles and equipment.

“Adoption of the Delineation of the International Boundary on the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande”

Signed November 5, 2009

Adopts new Rio Grande boundary maps
Boundary map, Chamizal area
1970 Boundary Treaty states the border is the middle of the river channel of greatest average width over its length

Tasks IBWC with preparing boundary maps

IBWC obtains aerial photos and marks the boundary on the photo maps

New maps adopted by Minute
MINUTE 313

◆ “Maintenance in the Rectified Channel of the Rio Grande”
◆ Signed February 5, 2008
◆ 1933 and 1970 Treaties provide for the IBWC to maintain the Rio Grande channel

Rio Grande at Ft. Quitman gaging station
References sediment build-up in the Rio Grande
Clarifies responsibilities for channel maintenance
Adopts the “Joint Report of the Principal Engineers Regarding the Division of Maintenance Work in the Rio Grande from the Point Closest to Monument No. 1 to the End of the Rectification Reach in the El Paso-Juarez Valley” dated Sept. 25, 2007

Sediment was removed at the Guayuco Arroyo confluence with the Rio Grande.
USIBWC HEADQUARTERS
El Paso, TX
915-832-4100
www.ibwc.gov