

# INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

## *MINUTE SIGNINGS WITH THE US AND MEXICO*

Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary  
October 12, 2017  
Rio Grande Citizens Forum



# IBWC MINUTES

- ◆ 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



**IBWC Commissioners and Secretaries sign Min. 319**



# IBWC MINUTES

- ◆ 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**



# 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



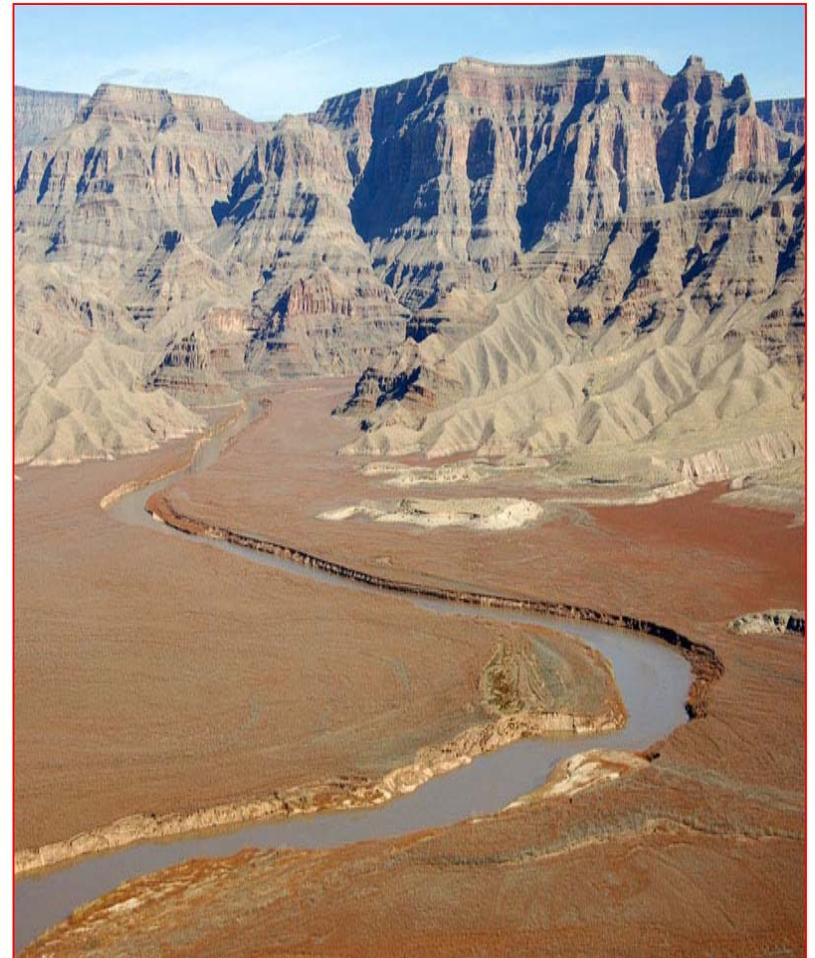
**Mexico diverts most of its allotment at Morelos Dam.**



# COLORADO RIVER JOINT COOPERATIVE PROCESS



1999



2006

Lake Mead

# 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



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

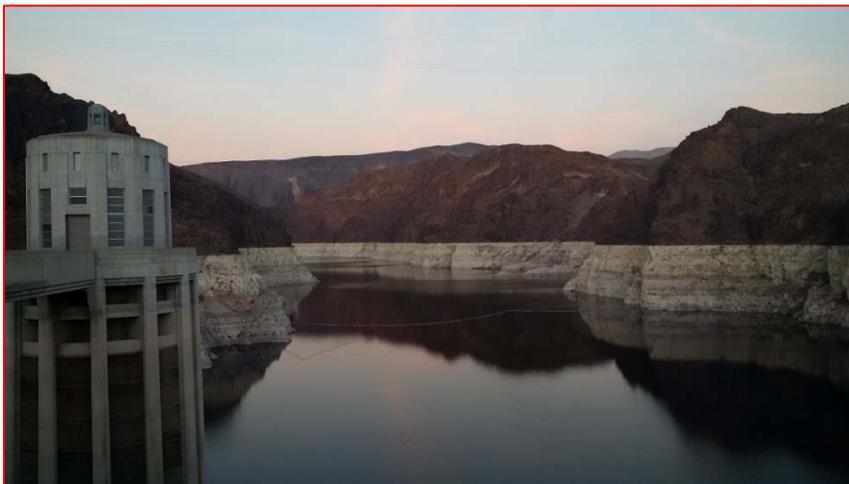
- ◆ Mexico's Water Reserve
  - ▶ Allows Mexico to defer water delivery due to earthquakes, emergencies, or conservation
  - ▶ Water available for subsequent delivery to Mexico
  - ▶ Gives Mexico flexibility in water management
  - ▶ Boosts Lake Mead elevation to benefit all users



# MINUTE 323



Hoover Dam



- ◆ 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



# MINUTE 323



**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



# MINUTE 323



**Laguna Grande Restoration Site**

- ◆ 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.**



# MINUTE 322



**Min. 322 signing in El Paso, TX, Jan. 19, 2017**

- ◆ “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.



# MINUTE 321



**Vehicle decal adopted in 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.



# MINUTE 315



**Rio Grande flood at Presidio, TX**

- ◆ “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



# MINUTE 315



Boundary map, Chamizal area



# MINUTE 315

- ◆ 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**



# MINUTE 313

- ◆ 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.**



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