

September 1, 2011

Issue 2



Inside this issue:

<i>Message from the Commissioner</i>	1
<i>USIBWC at the Chamizal National Memorial</i>	1
<i>Colorado River Citizens Forum in Imperial, CA</i>	2
<i>Commission Discusses Progress on Colorado River Joint Cooperative Actions</i>	2
<i>Upper Rio Grande Project Tour</i>	3-4
<i>New River Improvement Project</i>	5
<i>Commission Meeting at IBWC Mexican Section</i>	5
<i>DAS Rooney visits IBWC</i>	5
<i>Salinity Technical Workshop</i>	6
<i>Colorado River Binational Operations</i>	6
<i>Binational Mexicali Sanitation Observation and Technical Committee</i>	6
<i>IBWC Visits Washington, DC</i>	7
<i>Amistad Dam Risk Analysis Meeting</i>	8
<i>Southeast Arizona Citizens' Forum Board Members Tour</i>	8
<i>Mexico to store Colorado River water in U. S. Reservoirs</i>	8
<i>Colorado River Upper Basin Flyover</i>	9
<i>American Dam Safety and Security</i>	10
<i>Colorado River Joint Cooperative Process Binational Workgroups</i>	11
<i>International Visitors</i>	11

A message from U.S. Commissioner Drusina

Welcome to the Second Issue of the *IBWC Newsline!* The Commission has been very busy over the summer. In early June, a busload of individuals, including myself, toured the New Mexico/Texas Upper Rio Grande Project. The tour was hosted by Bert Cortez, Manager of the El Paso Field Division, Bureau of Reclamation (RECLAMATION). The two day tour started with a drive from El Paso to the Bureau of Reclamation Elephant Butte Field Division Office, Dam and Power Plant, and culminated the following day with a visit to the Partidor and Franklin Feeder Heading in south El Paso County, with many stops in between. In late July, Mexican Commissioner Robert Salmon and the Commission's Secretaries Jesus Luevano and Adolfo Mata, and I traveled to Washington, D.C. for various meetings with high level government officials, including the Mexican Ambassador to the United States, the White House National Security Council's Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs, and the new Ambassador to Mexico. While in D.C., we also took the opportunity to meet with the EPA Acting Assistant Administrator, Office on Water, and the Director of the Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Over the summer, the Commission continued activities on the Colorado River Binational Joint Cooperative Actions with Binational Workgroup meetings, a meeting of the Binational Core Group and Consultative Council on June 1 in Tijuana, Baja California and meetings of the Colorado River Binational Leadership Team. The latter was hosted by the Bureau of Reclamation at the Department of Interior Office Building in Washington, D.C. on July 26.

On August 1-3, the IBWC Commissioners and key staff participated in a three day flyover tour of the Colorado River Upper Basin that was organized and hosted by Upper Colorado Regional Director, Larry Walkoviak. A lot of ground was covered and both Commissioner Salmon and I found the tour and staff presentations to be very informative and useful in our binational discussions on the Colorado River. On August 4, the Commission met with RECLAMATION Lower Colorado Regional Office staff in Boulder City, Nevada to continue discussions on the Colorado River Operational Guidelines and the Law of the River. I am very appreciative of Bert Cortez, Larry Walkoviak, and Lorri Gray-Lee, Lower Colorado Regional Director for organizing these tours and presentations for the Commission.

As you can see the Commission has been very busy over summer. Please let us know what you think.

USIBWC at the Chamizal National



International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina was invited to participate as a keynote speaker at the exhibit opening on June 10, 2011 of the centennial anniversary of the 1911 Chamizal Arbitration. The event included an exhibit entitled, "As Settled as the River." The exhibit promotes the history and mission of the National Memorial and the IBWC, and reiterates the unique, binational relationship between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez.

"As Settled as the River" examines the physical and political events leading up to the 1911 Chamizal Arbitration, as well as the socio-political impact on Mexico and the United States after the arbitration's findings were rejected. Showcasing photographs, maps, documents, and augmented artifacts with personal stories told by the 1911 Arbitration Council and local peoples affected by the land dispute.

Chamizal National Memorial National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

As Settled as the River:

The Centennial Anniversary of the 1911 Chamizal Arbitration

The chamizal

Los Paisanos Gallery
 June 10 – August 27, 2011
 Reception for friends, family, & public
 Friday, June 10, 2011
 7:00-9:00 pm

Photos 1911 Chamizal Arbitration Council representing the United States and Mexico

Colorado River Citizens Forum in Imperial, CA

**Colorado River
Citizens Forum**

On May 25, the Yuma Field Office hosted the Colorado River Citizens Forum in Imperial, CA. A presentation was made by Al Kalin, local Imperial Valley farmer and Advisory Committee volunteer of the Citizens Congressional Task Force where he provided an update on the New River Wetlands Project. Jose Angel, Assistant Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and Representative for the AB1079 New River Improvement Project provided an updated on the status of the Assembly Bill 1079 project. USIBWC Public Affairs



Officer Sally Spener provided an update on the U.S.-Mexico Colorado River Joint Cooperative Process. Attendees included IBWC U.S. and Mexican Sections, Calexico residents, students from Imperial Valley College, Imperial Irrigation District, Arizona Game and Fish, Imperial Valley Press and a staff person representing California Assemblyman Manuel Perez.

Commission Discusses Progress on Colorado River Joint Cooperative Actions

Minute No. 317

On June 1, IBWC officials met with federal and state representatives and members of nongovernmental organizations from both countries in Tijuana, Baja California to discuss progress on Colorado River Joint Cooperative Actions. Meeting participants included Commissioner Michael Connor of the United States Bureau of Reclamation, representatives from Mexico’s Ministry of Foreign Relations, and senior water managers from both countries. These actions are being undertaken in accordance with Minute No. 317, which established various work groups to improve U.S.-Mexico cooperation with regards to the Colorado River. The following issues and projects have been identified as of interest to both countries: water conservation pilot project; fallowing; environmental restoration project at the Miguel Aleman site in Mexico; conveyance of Mexican water through the All-American Canal; feasibility study of a binational desalination plant at Rosarito, Baja California; hydrology, including shortage and surplus management; salinity; Intentionally Created Mexican Allocation (ICMA); and water for the environment. The work groups will continue to meet throughout the summer and fall as they perform the research, technical analysis, and planning for the various projects.

Upper Rio Grande Project Tour

Personnel from IBWC and the Bureau of Reclamation participated in tour of the Upper Rio Grande on June 8 and 9. The tour included: Elephant Butte Dam, Caballo Dam, Percha Dam, Trujillo Creek and Lateral, Garfield Main – Porter Drip System, Placitas Arroyo, Leasburg Dam, Mesilla Dam, Louisiana Well at Pajaro Road, American Dam, International Dam, and Franklin Canal in the El Paso area.

Elephant Butte Reservoir



IBWC and CONAGUA representatives at Louisiana Well at Pajaro Road in New Mexico

Elephant Butte Dam Hydroelectric Plant in background



Upper Rio Grande Tour...

**U.S. Commissioner
Drusina, AOM Tony Solo
and Galan Hanson from
Elephant Butte Field
Division Office**



**Meeting at Elephant
Butte Irrigation District
Office**

**Tour group with U.S.
Commissioner Drusina**



New River Improvement Project



On June 17, a site visit was conducted with participants of the Technical Advisory Committee for the New River Improvement Project. Participants included IBWC staff, representatives from UC Davis, CalEPA, and staff from the office of Assemblyman Manuel Perez. The Committee has been tasked to put together a strategic plan by September 2011 for a New River improvement manual.

Commission Meeting at IBWC Mexican Section Offices

The IBWC held a Commission meeting on June 21 at the Mexican Section's offices in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. Topics discussed included Colorado River Leadership Team Meetings, the upcoming International Week on Dam Risk Analysis, Safety, Security, and Critical Infrastructure Management, among others.



DAS Rooney visits IBWC



The IBWC Commissioners met with Department of State Deputy Assistant Secretary Matthew Rooney during his visit to El Paso. He was accompanied by Peter Sloan, Political Officer assigned to the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. Commissioner Drusina presented an overview of the Commission. Two specific issues that were raised were the proposed Laredo, Texas/Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas Weir Project; and the transfer of the operations and maintenance of the Morillo Drain in the Lower Rio Grande from CONAGUA to the Mexican Section.

Salinity Technical Workshop



A binational Salinity Technical Workshop was held at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Yuma Field office, on June 28, 2011. Participants included IBWC U.S. and Mexican Sections, RECLAMATION’s Yuma office, CONAGUA, Imperial Irrigation District and the Central Arizona Project. The group discussed data utilized by RECLAMATION’s Salinity Simulator; reviewed simulator results for various ICMA volumes; discussed the conceptual framework for environmental flows and ICMA; and reviewed groundwater conveyance system and diversion structures in the U.S.

Colorado River Binational Operations

The USIBWC’s Yuma Field Office continues to hold monthly Colorado River binational operations meetings with the participation from Bureau of Reclamation, IBWC and CONAGUA. These meetings are to discuss Colorado River operations and Mexico water deliveries.



Binational Mexicali Sanitation Observation and Technical Committee



The Binational Mexicali Sanitation Observation and Technical Committee, composed of representatives from the U.S. and Mexican Sections of the IBWC, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. EPA, City of Calexico, CONAGUA and Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Mexicali met on June 30, 2011 to jointly monitor discharges into the New River and sanitation projects in Mexicali, Baja California.

IBWC Visits Washington, DC



IBWC Commissioners Edward Drusina and Roberto Salmon, along with Commission Secretaries Jesus Luévano and Adolfo Mata travelled to Washington D.C. on July 25—July 28, 2011 for various meetings with high level officials.. During their visit, they had the opportunity to meet with Dan Restrepo, Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs, White House National Security Council, and Mexican Ambassador to the United States, Arturo Sarukahn (photo) where the Commissioners presented current pro-

jects and progress on Colorado River Joint Cooperative Actions.

In addition, they met at the Department of the Interior for the Colorado River Leadership Team Meeting hosted by RECLAMATION. While in D.C. the Commissioners also met with representatives of the U.S. EPA Office on Water and spent time at the Woodrow Wilson Center to discuss the integral role which the IBWC plays in all border-related issues.



Commissioners present IBWC coin to Dan Restrepo



Meeting with Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, EPA

Amistad Dam Risk Analysis Meeting



The IBWC U.S. and Mexican Sections met on July 12 with representatives from CONAGUA and the Amistad and Reynosa Field Offices to discuss the final Amistad Dam Risk Analysis Report. During this meeting, it was concluded that the Commission is ready to move forward in implementing the recommendations contained in the report.

Southeast Arizona Citizens' Forum Board Members Tour

The Southeast Arizona Citizens' Forum held a board field trip on July 14, 2011 which included a tour of San Pedro River; Palomas Trail through Odle and Ladd property; and a drive through Naco to the Cochise County Complex in Bisbee, Arizona. Board members were able to see the U.S. Border fence up close



Mexico to store Colorado River water in U. S. Reservoirs



In early August 2011, Mexican Commissioner Roberto Salmon notified U.S Commissioner Edward Drusina that Mexico intends to store 61.689 million cubic meters (50,000 AF) of Colorado River water allotted to Mexico under the 1944 Water Treaty by adjusting its water deliveries scheduled for the months of October, November and December 2011. Commissioner Salmon indicated that Mexico is unable to use the water due to the irrigation infrastructure damages as a result of the April 2010 Mexicali Valley, Baja California earthquake. Under IBWC Minute No. 318 signed in December 2010, Mexico may adjust its Colorado River water delivery schedule for the purpose of storing water in the U.S. that it is unable to use. Mexico may store and request delivery of the stored water through 2013.

**Signing of Minute
No. 318**

Colorado River Upper Basin Flyover

The U.S. and Mexican Sections of the IBWC participated in a flyover of the Colorado River Upper Basin on August 1 through 3, hosted by RECLAMATION's Upper Colorado Regional Office. The team boarded the plane in Boulder City, Nevada and toured the Glen Canyon Dam on the first day. On day 2, the tour departed from Salt Lake City and visited Flaming Gorge Dam, the Green River and Dutch John. On the final day, the group flew over the Colorado River's main stem; the Gunnison River's Aspinall unit, and the Navajo Gallup, New Mexico projects.

Lake Powell and Glen Canyon Dam



**Tour Group Photo/
Glen Canyon Dam
Office and Visitor
Center**

Colorado River Upper Basin Flyover



American Dam Safety and Security

On August 5, an American Dam Meeting on Safety and Security Issues was held at USBWC Headquarters. Topics discussed included identifying safety considerations and concerns related to the recreational use of the American Dam and downstream area; identify procedures and concepts to mitigate risk to life and reduce the number of people using the area for recreation; identify roles and responsibilities; and develop an implementation plan/timeline. Representatives from U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. and Mexican Sections of the IBWC, and the Mexican Consulate participated in the meeting.

Colorado River Joint Cooperative Process Binational Workgroups

On May 18 and 19 the IBWC Yuma Field Office participated in the binational workgroups in Tijuana, Baja California for the Colorado River Joint Cooperative Process in preparation for the large binational stakeholder meeting on June 1 also held in Tijuana, Baja California.



The focus of these workshops included to finalize a Commission Minute in 2011 that addresses the following priorities: salinity, shortage management, surplus sharing, deferred delivery of Mexican water stored in the United States, exchange of water and water for the environment.



International Visitors



The IBWC Foreign Affairs Office periodically receives visitors who are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Their program is arranged by the Institute of International Education (IIE). Locally these groups are coordinated by the El Paso Council for International Visitors.

African Delegation

On July 7, Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener, received a delegation from Africa on a tour through the United States interested in observing and learning about conflict resolution. The group's main goals were to understand U.S. perspectives on the use of dispute resolution and/or preventive diplomacy in domestic and international situations; to familiarize participants with the diverse perspectives of public and private organizations active in alternative diplomacy and conflict resolution; to provide an understanding of various techniques for mitigating or resolving a variety of conflicts and/or disputes resulting from ethnic, religious, socioeconomic and regional differences; and to introduce participants to the training of conflict resolution specialists by universities and professional organizations.



IBWC Newsline



www.ibwc.gov

International Boundary and Water Commission
 United States and Mexico
 United States Section
 Foreign Affairs Office

4171 North Mesa
 Bldg C-100
 El Paso, Texas
 79902

Phone: 915-832-4100
 Fax: 915-832-4190
 E-mail: adolfo.mata@ibwc.gov