



International Boundary and Water Commission United States and Mexico

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US AND MEXICO SIGN AGREEMENT FOR RIO GRANDE WATER DELIVERY BY MEXICO

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, has signed [Minute No. 325](#), “Measures to End the Current Rio Grande Water Delivery Cycle without a Shortfall, to Provide Humanitarian Support for the Municipal Water Supply for Mexican Communities, and to Establish Mechanisms for Future Cooperation to Improve the Predictability and Reliability of Rio Grande Water Deliveries to Users in the United States and Mexico.” The agreement ensures Mexico will meet the October 24, 2020 deadline to deliver Rio Grande water to the United States.

In accordance with the 1944 Water Treaty, the United States is entitled to a portion of the water arriving in the Rio Grande from six Mexican tributaries for a total of at least 1,750,000 acre-feet (2158.6 million cubic meters) over five years. The current five-year cycle ends on October 24, 2020. Mexico will deliver the final pending amount of approximately 105,000 acre-feet (130 mcm) by transferring water from Mexican ownership to U.S. ownership at Amistad and Falcon International Reservoirs on the Rio Grande.

Minute No. 325 also establishes work groups to analyze and develop water management tools to provide for increased reliability and predictability in Rio Grande water deliveries to users in the United States and Mexico. Moreover, it includes a provision for U.S. humanitarian support to Mexico, if needed, to guarantee municipal water supplies for Mexican communities along the Rio Grande downstream from Amistad Dam.

“We appreciate the efforts by Mexican government officials to fulfill their treaty obligations on time. This agreement sets us on a path to improve Rio Grande management in the future to the benefit of both countries,” said U.S. Commissioner Jayne Harkins.

Mexican Commissioner Humberto Marengo stated, “Mexico has always been committed to complying with its obligations. I appreciate the humanitarian support offered by the United States so

that, if needed, the Mexican communities that depend on the Rio Grande for their supply will have the necessary backing to cover their municipal needs, as established in Article 4 of Mexico's Constitution.”

Minute No. 325 received immediate approval from the U.S. Department of State and Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Relations and has entered into force. Mexico will complete the water transfer to the United States on October 23, 2020.

Commission officials signed the agreement on October 21 at a brief outdoor ceremony in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua next to International Boundary Monument No. 1 near the Rio Grande. Attendees included Consul General Eric Cohan from the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Roberto Velasco, Director General for North America of Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Relations, and Consul General Mauricio Ibarra from the Mexican Consulate in El Paso, Texas.

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 the application of the treaties.

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