

**BINATIONAL WORKSHOP ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION
ON THE COLORADO RIVER**

**Marriot Courtyard San Diego Airport/Liberty Station
2592 Laning Road
(619) 221-1900
San Diego, CA 92106
August 4 - 5, 2009**

Purpose of the Meeting:

To focus, from a policy perspective, on the Binational Interim Colorado River Operations, Environmental Issues, Conservation and Desalination Projects and next steps. The intent is to reach a recommendation in an agreed upon timeframe, regarding the legal and policy framework to allow for the storage of Mexico water in the U.S. reservoirs as well as Colorado River operations during low reservoir conditions.

Tuesday August 4

10:30 a.m. INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

10:45 a.m. OPENING REMARKS

Commissioner C.W. Ruth
Commissioner Roberto F. Salmón
Commissioner Michael L. Connor
Felipe Arreguin, CONAGUA
Basin States' Representatives

BINATIONAL COLORADO RIVER OPERATIONS

- Storage of Mexican Water (ICMA) in U.S. Reservoirs

11.15 a.m. PRESENTATION BY MEXICO (FOLLOWED BY U.S. COMMENTS)

- Management of Colorado River Operations by Mexico (Comments on the Basin States proposal)
- Open discussion

12:30 p.m. LUNCH

1:30 p.m. PRESENTATION BY UNITED STATES (FOLLOWED BY MEXICO COMMENTS)

- Criteria for Mexico to be able to store ICMA in the U.S.
- Maximum storage volumes, both annual and cumulative limits
- Maximum volumes to be released in any single year
- Limits on releasing volumes during shortage periods

Tuesday August 4 cont.

- Maximum and/or minimum time that Mexico can store a particular volume in the U.S.
- Criteria to be applied to the ICMA when a spill occurs at the dams or proportion in which they would be affected
- Time it would take to resolve these issues

ITEMS FOR WHICH THE U.S. WILL NOT HAVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR DISCUSSION AT THE WORKSHOP (SOME COMMENT EXPECTED BY MEXICO)

- Storage sites, delivery points and operational implications
- Impacts on salinity at the point of delivery
- Effects that it could have on the water quality and quantity reaching the international boundary
- Technical, legal, environmental issues that need to be resolved in the U.S. and Mexico so that Mexico can store ICMA in U.S. reservoirs
- Mechanisms to resolve legal issues in the U.S. and Mexico so that Mexico can store ICMA in U.S. reservoirs
- Agreements required in each country; international agreements, IBWC Minutes
- Agencies involved in both countries to determine the criteria to be applied

2:30 p.m. MANAGEMENT OF COLORADO RIVER WATER - U.S. PRESENTATION

- Current operations
- Shortage management strategies used in the U.S.
 1. Upper Basin
 2. Nevada
 3. California
 4. Arizona

3:30 p.m. SUMMARY OF MEXICAN WATER LAW

- Mexican management of Treaty deliveries (If there are surplus waters ("Tabla Alta"), if deliveries are normal ("Tabla Normal"), or less than normal) - CONAGUA/MXIBWC
- Strategies for binational management of low storage levees in the reservoirs
- Open discussion

5:00 p.m. END-OF-DAY CONCLUSIONS

Wednesday August 5

9:00 a.m. WELCOME BY COMMISSIONER C.W. RUTH AND COMMISSIONER SALMÓN

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (Presentation by Mexico)

- Presentation on the environmental needs of the Colorado River Delta in Mexico and the Limitrophe Reach – Instituto Nacional de Ecologia
- Open discussion

10:00 a.m. IBWC FRAMEWORK MINUTE (Current status)

10:30 a.m. BREAK

10:45 a.m. JOINT INVESTMENT IN CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN MEXICO. MEXICO AND THE U.S. STORE IN THE U.S. PORTIONS OF THE RECLAIMED WATER. (PRESENTATION BY MEXICO)

In addition to those issues raised for the ICMA program, the following needs to be considered:

- Criteria for determining the time period during which water would be delivered to the U.S. from the "infrastructure in exchange for water for a defined period of time" projects
- Locations in the U.S. where this water would be delivered
- Determination of environmental, social, and economic impacts of the projects
- Identification of the affected parties and measures to address the effects
- Contribution of part of the conserved water by both countries for environmental purposes, water which, had it not been reclaimed would have runoff towards the Delta or remained as part of some other environmental component
- Use in Mexico of part of the water produced by U.S. investment, increasing the water supply to offset the impacts that would be generated in Mexico
- Technical, legal, political details that need to be resolved in Mexico and the U.S. to deliver to the U.S., for a defined period of time, the water generated by the joint conservation projects in Mexico

12:00 p.m. LUNCH

1:00 p.m. JOINT INVESTMENT IN DESALINATION PROJECTS

- Presentation by Mexico on Desalination Projects

In addition to the issues raised for the ICMA's and those pertaining to the joint investment in conservation projects, it is necessary to address the following:

Wednesday August 5 cont.

- Consider, in addition to the volumes generated, their locations, given that the water will be produced at location that is different from where it will be used or where historically it has been used
- Include the construction and operation of the works to convey the water generated from the desalination site to where it will be used or historically has been used in Mexico
- Include the works to convey desalinated water to U.S. territory, which would enable the U.S. to receive it without involving the 1944 Treaty
- Open discussion

2:00 p.m. CONCLUSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- Develop detailed calendar based on the binational agreements that are reached
- Develop agenda for next binational meeting (Fall 2009)

2:30 p.m. WORKSHOP CLOSING