Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary
May 10, 2017
Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BASIN

- 7 U.S. states
  - Wyoming
  - Colorado
  - New Mexico
  - Utah
  - Arizona
  - Nevada
  - California

- 2 Mexican states
  - Baja California
  - Sonora
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
7 U.S. Basin States & 2 federal governments asked IBWC to convene stakeholders.

- 4 Work Groups established in 2008
- Minute No. 318 (2010) allowed Mx to store water in the US until it could fix earthquake damage
MINUTE 319 (2012)

- Signed Nov. 20, 2012
- 5-year agreement thru 2017
- 7 Sections
  - Extension of Minute 318
  - High reservoir water sharing
  - Low reservoir shortage sharing
  - Intentionally Created Mexican Allocation (ICMA)
  - Salinity Management
  - Water for Environment and ICMA/ICS exchange pilot
  - Projects

Minute 319 signing in San Diego, CA
EXTENSION OF MINUTE 318

- Mexico advised earthquake repairs are ongoing
- Allows for Mexico to defer delivery of water through 2017
- Water to be delivered when Mexico requests it
- Deliveries limited during certain shortage conditions

Extensive repairs were required.
ICMA

- Intentionally Created Mexican Allocation (ICMA)
  - Mexico to create ICMA through adjustments to its annual delivery schedule resulting from water conservation projects or new water sources projects

Minute 319 binational meeting
Mexico interested in receiving additional water when surplus is available to U.S. users.

Provides additional volumes to Mexico of 40 - 200 kaf based on 4 high elevation tiers at Lake Mead.
PRINCIPLE 1: Shortage Sharing

- Principle that when one country is in shortage, the other country should be in shortage.
- Annual reductions to Mexico of 50-125 kaf based on 3 low elevation tiers at Lake Mead.
- Mexico may use its stored water to offset shortage, subject to limitations.

Lake Mead at Hoover Dam
Dec. 2015
◆ Lake Mead hit record low in 2016 – 37% full
◆ Mexican storage under Minutes 318 and 319 has boosted Lake Mead elevation by 2-3 feet, helping to prevent mandatory cuts in the Lower Basin
◆ Mexico is willing to cooperate to better prepare for drought.
SALINITY

- Minute 242 requires salinity of deliveries to Mexico to be similar to water quality at Imperial Dam.
- US and Mexico will operate system to minimize salinity impacts of Min. 319 actions.

Saline waters can be bypassed through drains.
Generates water for the Colorado River Delta and limitrophe

158 kaf of water for environment in 2013-2017
- U.S. investment in Mexico to cover 1/3 of this volume
- Mexico and NGOs will cover the rest
- Includes pulse flow and base flow
$21 M from US for projects in Mexico

Mexico derives long-term benefits from waters conserved from U.S. investment

U.S. funders receive one-time 124 kaf of water to be converted from ICMA; no pipeline required

Water benefits to MWD, CAP, SNWA, USG

U.S. entities to fund projects like canal lining
Future discussions of possible projects such as:

► Seawater desalination
► Irrigation district modernization
► Fallowing
► Other infrastructure

This old canal in Mexico could be used for water storage/conservation.
IMPLEMENTATION - RESTORATION SITES

- Miguel Aleman (87 acres)
- Laguna Grande (1200 acres)
- Restore cottonwoods, willows, mesquite
- Over 100,000 trees planted
IMPLEMENTATION – PULSE FLOW

- March-May 2014
- 105 kaf release for environmental purposes
- Flow inundated key areas of the river channel and floodplain
- Scientists studied and documented effects
- Internationally-recognized effort

Pulse Flow Release from Morelos Dam
Pulse flow at Laguna Grande Restoration Site
Minute 319 ends 12/31/17
Work began in 2015 on a new agreement based on Minute 319
New Minute informed by Minute 319 and evolving basin conditions
MINUTE 32X

- Minute Negotiating Group (MNG) met monthly
- Meetings held in US and Mx
- Domestic consultations inform between binational meetings

MNG Members in Santa Fe
Work Groups formed to assist MNG
- Salinity Work Group
- Projects Work Group
- Environmental Work Group
- Hydrology Work Group

Existing Minute 319 Work Groups are also helping
Salinity Work Group

- Address salinity when stored water is delivered
- Explore relationship between volume and salinity
- Assess salinity issues identified by other work groups or of proposed projects
- Explore potential salinity control activities

Colorado River at Morelos Dam
Projects Work Group

► Develop a list of projects and evaluate feasibility
► Irrigation district improvements of particular interest
► Clarify a framework for providing water benefits to the US in exchange for investment
MINUTE 32X

- Environmental Work Group
  - Develop recommendations for environmental projects
  - Define priorities for environmental projects considering a range of possible environmental flows
  - Assemble information on funding and water needs of current projects

2014 Pulse Flow
MINUTE 32X

- Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan
  - More aggressive water savings earlier to shore up drought-affected reservoirs
  - Based on proposed elements of Drought Contingency Plan in the US

- Flow Variability
  - Operational changes and infrastructure development to reduce flow variability in daily deliveries to Mexico

Water is delivered to Mexico in this reach of the river