



**International Boundary and Water Commission
United States and Mexico**

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**REPORT DOCUMENTS HABITAT RESTORATION
ACHIEVEMENTS IN COLORADO RIVER
DELTA REGION IN MEXICO**

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC), has published the *Minute 323 Environmental Work Group 2018 Implementation Report*. This report documents activities carried out in 2018 to implement the environmental commitments of Minute 323, an IBWC agreement on Colorado River cooperation signed in 2017. Environmental Work Group members from the U.S. and Mexico participated together in the development of the Minute 323 habitat monitoring, water delivery, and restoration programs, and contributed to the report.

In 2018, the first year of Minute 323 implementation, the Environmental Work Group reported substantial progress in its work in the Colorado River Delta region, including:

- More than 60,000 native trees were cultivated in nurseries and planted at restoration sites.
- A cumulative total of 1,102 acres (446 hectares) of natural river habitat in the Colorado River Delta have been restored and maintained (including habitat restored under a preceding binational agreement, Minute 319), comprised of cottonwood and willow groves, mesquite bosques, marshlands and open water.
- In the estuary, with the dredging of a channel more than one mile (1.8 km) long, connectivity has been re-established to enable the mixing of fresh and tidal waters.
- Expenditure of more than \$3 million dollars and delivery of nearly 7,000 acre-feet (8.5 million cubic meters [mcm]) of water. This includes more than \$1.55 million dollars from Mexico, more

- than \$300,000 dollars from the United States, and more than \$1.25 million dollars from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). All water delivered was from the NGO water supply.
- Expenditure of nearly \$800,000 dollars on monitoring and science to better understand and improve the ecosystem response to restoration activities and to measure public engagement.
 - A diverse group of institutions from the United States and Mexico, including federal and state agencies, NGOs and their donors, and universities, collaborated on these successes.

“This report documents the Environmental Work Group’s initial achievements under Minute 323,” said Jayne Harkins, U.S. Commissioner of the IBWC. “It shows they’re off to a good start in implementing the Minute’s environmental commitments.”

Mexican Commissioner Roberto Salmon said, “Thanks to the Minute 323 agreements, continuity could be given to those environmental restoration efforts that had been achieved through Minute 319, benefitting the Colorado River Delta habitat and ecosystem.”

The IBWC and its partners continued with their restoration efforts in accordance with the provisions of Minute 323, which covers a nine-year period through 2026. Minute 323 provides for at least 210,000 acre-feet (259 mcm) of water for environmental purposes, \$9 million dollars for scientific research and monitoring, and \$9 million dollars for restoration projects.

Minute 323 Environmental Work Group 2018 Implementation Report is available [here](#):

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