

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

US-MEXICO COLORADO RIVER COOPERATION

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U.S. Commissioner

International Boundary and Water Commission



US-MEXICO DIPLOMACY



ANNIVERSARY
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
UNITED STATES - MEXICO 1822 - 2022



MINUTE 323 ON COLORADO RIVER COOPERATION

◆ In effect 2017-2026:

- ▶ Creation of Mexico's Water Reserve to store water in the US for future delivery
- ▶ **Shortage reductions**
- ▶ Water sharing during high reservoir conditions
- ▶ Recoverable water savings
- ▶ **Water conservation** and new water sources projects including desalination
- ▶ **Water for the environment**/habitat restoration
- ▶ Salinity
- ▶ Flow variability in deliveries to Mx



**IBWC receives support
from diverse stakeholders
on its Minute 323 work
groups**



MIN. 323 – WATER RESERVE



Under previous Minutes, Mexico deferred deliveries after an earthquake damaged canals.

- ◆ Mexico's Water Reserve
 - ▶ Allows Mexico to defer water delivery due to earthquakes, emergencies, or conservation
 - ▶ Water available for subsequent delivery to Mexico
 - ▶ Gives Mexico **flexibility** in water management



MIN. 323 – WATER RESERVE



Mexico has undertaken canal lining and other projects to conserve water

◆ Mexico's Water Reserve

- ▶ Mexican storage under Minute 323 and its predecessors **boosted Lake Mead elevation by 2-3 feet**, helping to delay Lower Basin cuts
- ▶ Boosts Lake Mead elevation to benefit all users



MIN. 323 - SHORTAGE SHARING

- ◆ Principle that when one country is in shortage, the other country should be in shortage
- ◆ Annual reductions to Mexico based on 3 low elevation tiers at Lake Mead (based on August 24-month study)
- ◆ **2023 reduction for Mexico:** 70,000 acre-feet (86 mcm)



Lake Mead at Hoover Dam
Dec. 2021



MIN. 323 - CONTINGENCY PLAN

- ◆ Binaltional Water Scarcity Contingency Plan
 - ▶ Requires water savings earlier
 - ▶ Commitment to reduce water orders at certain reservoir elevations
 - ▶ Water savings could be delivered in the future when reservoirs refill
 - ▶ Based on elements of U.S. Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan
 - ▶ 2023 savings for Mexico: 34,000 acre-feet (42 mcm)
- ◆ **Mexico total reduction & savings for 2023**
 - ▶ **104,00 acre-feet (128 mcm)**



MIN. 323 - PROJECTS

- ◆ \$31.5 M from U.S. entities for projects in Mexico
- ◆ Mexico derives long-term benefits from waters conserved from U.S. investment
- ◆ 109 kaf (135 mcm) for U.S. **water agencies**
- ◆ 70 kaf (86 mcm) for **environment**
- ◆ 50 kaf (62 mcm) for **system storage**
- ◆ Consideration of future new water sources projects

U.S. entities to fund projects like canal lining.



MINUTE 323

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

- ◆ IBWC established **Binational Work Group on Proactive Measures (PM)**:
 - ▶ To identify **additional conservation** projects in Mexico.
 - ▶ Consider the means to **accelerate Minute 323 investments in conservation projects** in Mexico to maximize creation of Mexico's Water Reserve in 2022 and 2023.
 - ▶ Consider additional investment and conservation.



Modernization of Mexico's irrigation infrastructure conserves water.



DROUGHT MANAGEMENT 2023 AND BEYOND



US officials briefed senior Mexican government officials in Mexico City

- ◆ Min. 323 calls for consultations on additional measures that could be taken in light of worsening hydrology
- ◆ April and Nov. 2022 meetings in Mexico City conveyed seriousness of the drought to Mexican leaders
- ◆ Reclamation briefed Mexican officials on need to conserve more water to protect the dams



DROUGHT MANAGEMENT 2023 AND BEYOND



Minute Oversight Group Meeting
Nov. 30, 2022, Tijuana

"A good hockey player plays where the puck is. A great hockey player plays where the puck is going to be."

-- Wayne Gretzky

