

September 26, 2018

For Immediate Release:

Celebrating 75 years of U.S.-Mexico water relations, the University of Arizona's (UA) Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, with collaboration from the Institute of the Environment and Water Resources Research Center (WRRRC), has partnered with El Colegio de Sonora (Hermosillo, Mexico) to hold a public workshop looking at the past, present, and future of these relations at the UA's Environment & Natural Resources (ENR2) Building on campus on October 15-16, 2018: **Binational Water Relations at 75 Years: Retrospectives, Resilience, and U.S.-Mexico Border Water Resources Governance.**

The year 2019 will mark two significant milestones in U.S.-Mexico relations around water and the shared border environment: the 75th anniversary of the Treaty of 1944 that apportioned the water resources of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo, the Colorado River, and the Tijuana River between the two countries (February 3, 1944), and the 25th anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) (January 1, 1994). The year 2018 also marks the 35th anniversary of the signing of the La Paz Agreement, the first comprehensive treaty-level accord on the environment between the two countries. These anniversaries offer a timely opportunity to reflect on the importance of these agreements themselves and the trajectories to which they gave rise, including new levels of binational cooperation and collaboration around water resources, fresh forms of science-policy engagement, and emerging binational environmental networks, among other changes. The **Binational Water Relations at 75 Years Workshop** will commemorate and critically examine these milestone events.

Even as climate change and social-demographic pressures increase the stress on shared binational water resources, Mexico and the U.S. have developed constructive governance pathways that started with the Treaty of 1944 and its establishment of the joint International Boundary and Waters Commission/Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (IBWC/CILA), which has been one of the most influential institutions shaping water resources management and policy in the border region. CILA Commissioner Roberto Salmón and IBWC Acting Commissioner José Nuñez will be among the panelists to discuss the significance, major milestones, and future of this joint institution at the workshop on Monday, Oct. 15 at 10:45am in the Haury Auditorium at ENR2.

This workshop, featuring keynote talk “The Treaty of 1944: What It Means for Binational Water Resources Today and in the Future” delivered by Dr. Stephen Mumme from Colorado State University, will be retrospective, contemporary, and prospective in its approach: looking back to remember the origins of how these trans-border governance relationships began and evolved, looking to the present to assess the resilience challenges the region faces, and looking forward to envision the future relations around water resources shared by the two countries.

The Oct. 15th & 16th **Binational Water Relations at 75 Years Workshop** intends to enhance public knowledge about the history and contemporary significance of these institutions for environmental resource protection in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

For further information regarding the workshop, please contact one of the following:

Dr. Margaret Wilder

Workshop Chair

University of Arizona

mwilder@email.arizona.edu

(520) 235-3204

Dr. Nicolás Pineda

Workshop Chair

El Colegio de Sonora

npineda@colson.edu.mx

+51 - 1 (662) 225-4990

Giancarlo Calbimonte

Workshop Coordinator

University of Arizona

gcalbimo@email.arizona.edu

(520) 626-4393

Molli Bryson

Environmental Program Coordinator, Udall Center

University of Arizona

mollic@email.arizona.edu

(520) 626-4393