

WORKSHOP

BINATIONAL WATER RELATIONS AT 75 YEARS:

Retrospectives, Resilience, and US-Mexico Border Water Resources Governance

October 15-16, 2018

University of Arizona

Environment & Natural
Resources (ENR2) Bldg.

Tucson, Arizona

THE TREATY OF 1944

What it means for binational water resources today and in the future



Keynote speaker:

Dr. Stephen Mumme

*Professor of the Political Science at
Colorado State University*

Monday, Oct. 15, 2018

12:00-1:15 p.m.

ENR2 Building

S-107, Haury Auditorium

Since receiving his Ph.D. at the University of Arizona in 1982, **Dr. Stephen Mumme's** scholarship has focused on U.S.-Mexico environmental relations with special attention to transboundary water diplomacy. He has served as a visiting professor at El Colegio de Sonora (COLSON) and El Colegio de San Luis Potosi (COLSLP) and is a former Fellow at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego. His published work on U.S.-Mexico water diplomacy appears in various journals. His latest article, "Extraordinary Drought in U.S.-Mexico Water Governance," co-written with Oscar Ibanez and Bruno Verdini, is forthcoming in the *Journal of Water Law* (vol. 26:1).

Of all existing agreements between Mexico and the United States, the 1944 Water Treaty is among the top three instruments defining and operationalizing the sovereign relations between the two countries. It is a truly remarkable document. Signed on February 3, 1944, approved by the U.S. Senate April 18, 1945 (just 6 days after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's passing and 3 weeks prior to VE Day), and by the Mexican Senate, October 16, 1945, and ratified by the U.S. President November 1, 1945, it is no exaggeration to say that it sprang from exceptional circumstances and that it has become one of the principal anchors of the bilateral relationship. The treaty is so much a part of the architecture of our mutual relations that it has come to possess a quasi-constitutional character, judged by its sovereignty management elements, its complexity and functional reach, its dispute resolution procedures, its adaptability and adaptations, and the embeddedness it has achieved in binational and domestic water practice over 75 years. It has become a remarkable tool for binational cooperation on some of the most potentially contentious issues in binational affairs, its known flaws and limits notwithstanding. Both countries are fortunate to have such a foundational document to work with in facing the serious water management challenges that lie in our transboundary river basins and along the boundary.



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