



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

Overview

The year 2019 will mark two significant milestones in US-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 Treaty of 1944 also established the joint International Boundary and Waters Commission/Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (IBWC/CILA) that has been one of the most influential institutions shaping water resources management and policy in the border region. 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. To commemorate and critically examine these milestone events, the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy and El Colegio de Sonora plan a binational workshop to be held October 15 and 16, 2018 on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson, Arizona.

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. NAFTA and its side agreements resulted in new institutions and financing mechanisms to protect the environment that have been sustained for a quarter-century.

Workshop Description

Even as climate change and social-demographic pressures increase the stress on shared binational water resources, Mexico and the US have developed constructive governance pathways that started with the Treaty of 1944 and the establishment of the joint International Boundary and Waters Commission (IBWC/CILA). In anticipation of the anniversaries, this workshop with key scholars and practitioners who have witnessed changing water governance over the last decades 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 two agreements will serve as jumping off points to talk about collaborative governance, shortage sharing, and ecological flows (IBWC Minutes 319 and 323), binational environmental networks and science-policy engagement (communities of practice), and assessments of the achievements and challenges of NAFTA institutions (Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Border Environment Cooperation Commission, and North American Development Bank).

Workshop Purpose

The purpose of the workshop is: 1) to critically reflect upon the significance of the Treaty of 1944, La Paz Agreement, and NAFTA environmental accords and what they have meant for shared binational water resources governance in the US-Mexico border region; 2) to begin to develop a publication to analyze the impact of the changes in binational water resources governance that emerged in the aftermath of the Treaty of 1944 and NAFTA; and 3) through both the workshop and the publication, to enhance public knowledge about the history and contemporary significance of these institutions for environmental resource protection in the US-Mexico borderlands.

We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of the following organizations: The University of Arizona's (UA) Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy [with funding from the Inter-American Inst. for Global Change Research (IAI) and its AQUASEC Center of Excellence in Water Security] and International Water Security Network/Lloyd's Register Foundation]; El Colegio de Sonora (Hermosillo, Mexico (with funding from IAI); and the UA's Institute of the Environment and Water Resources Research Center.



**BINATIONAL WATER RELATIONS AT 75 YEARS
WORKSHOP PROGRAM**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018—ENR2 BLDG, S107 HAURY AUDITORIUM (Public invited)

| TIME | EVENT | SPEAKER |
|----------------|--|--|
| 08:30—09:00 am | Light Breakfast | |
| 09:00—09:30 am | Welcome; Opening Remarks | Dean JP Jones, UA College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Dr. Juan Poom Medina, Rector, Colegio de Sonora |
| 09:30—09:45 am | Overview of Workshop; Logistics | Margaret Wilder & Nicolás Pineda |
| 09:45—10:45 am | The Coming Challenges: Water Resources in the Border Region | Chair: Christopher Scott (Overview) Panel: Gregg Garfin (Climate) Dan Ferguson (Drought) Carrie Nuva Joseph (Lower Colorado River tribal nations' issues) |
| 10:45—12:00 am | PANEL 1: The IBWC and CILA: Significance, Major Milestones, Future | Chair: Sharon Megdal Roberto Salmón, CILA Commissioner José Nuñez, IBWC Acting Commissioner |
| 12:00—12:10 pm | Welcoming Remarks | Provost UA Jeffery Goldberg |
| 12:10—01:10 am | KEYNOTE TALK: The Treaty of 1944 and What It Means for Binational Water Resources Today and in the Future | Dr. Stephen Mumme Colorado State University |
| 01:10—02:00 pm | Lunch buffet | (Public Invited) |

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018 – ENR2 BLDG, Room S-215 (2nd floor, South Corridor) (Public invited)

| TIME | EVENT | SPEAKER |
|----------------|---|---|
| 02:00—03:00 pm | PANEL 2: Colorado River Delta: New Capacities for Binational Cooperation | Chair: Margaret Wilder Panel: Karl Flessa Alfonso Cortes Lara Carlos de la Parra Yamilett Carrillo Guerrero |
| 03:00—04:00 pm | PANEL 3: Focus on Río Grande/Río Bravo and Tijuana Rivers | Chair: Nicolás Pineda Panel: Paul Ganster Oscar Ibañez Brian Hurd Ismael Aguilar Barajas |
| 04:00—04:15 pm | Coffee Break | |
| 04:15—05:15 pm | PANEL 4: Environmental Networks & Science-Policy Engagement: Co-Producing Knowledge across our Shared Border | Chair: Andrea Gerlak Panel: Helen Ingram Francisco Lara-Valencia Francisco Zamora Stephanie Buechler |

**BINATIONAL WATER RELATIONS AT 75 YEARS
WORKSHOP PROGRAM**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018—ENR2 BLDG, S215 (2nd floor, South Corridor) (Public invited)

| TIME | EVENT | SPEAKER |
|----------------|---|---|
| 09:30—10:30 am | PANEL 5: The NAFTA environmental institutions I: Their promise and early achievements | Chair: Robert Varady Panel: Alberto Szekely John Bernal Dick Kamp |
| 10:30—11:30 am | PANEL 6: The NAFTA environmental institutions II: Their evolution, present trajectory, and prognosis | Chair: Steve Mumme Panel: Irasema Coronado Oscar Ibañez Paul Ganster |
| 11:30—12:30 pm | PANEL 7: 'Una Vista Hacia el Futuro': A View toward the Future—Young Scholars Looking Ahead | Chair: Adriana Zuñiga (Chair) Panel: América Lutz Ley Paul Hernandez Romero Rolando Díaz Ben Wilder |