

MEXICO-US AGREEMENT ON THE PERMANENT AND  
DEFINITIVE SOLUTION TO THE  
SALINITY OF THE COLORADO RIVER\*  
(MINUTE NO. 242), MEXICO CITY 1973.

*International Boundary and Water Commission  
United States and Mexico  
Mexico, D.F.,  
August 30, 1973.  
Minute No. 242*

*Permanent and Definitive Solution to the International Problem of the Salinity of the Colorado River.*

The Commission met at the Secretariat of Foreign Relations, at Mexico, D.F., at 5:00 p.m. on August 30, 1973, pursuant to the instructions received by the two Commissioners from their respective Governments, in order to incorporate in a Minute of the Commission the joint recommendations which were made to their respective Presidents by the Special Representative of President Richard Nixon, Ambassador Herbert Brownell, and the Secretary of Foreign Relations of Mexico, Lic. Emilio O. Rabasa, and which have been approved by the Presidents, for a permanent and definitive solution of the international problem of the salinity of the Colorado River, resulting from the negotiations which they, and their technical and juridical advisers, held in June, July and August of 1973, in compliance with the references to this matter contained in the Joint Communique of Presidents Richard Nixon and Luis Echeverria of June 17, 1972.

Accordingly, the Commission submits for the approval of the two Governments the following

*Resolution:*

1. Referring to the annual volume of Colorado River waters guaranteed to Mexico under the Treaty of 1944, of 1,500,000 acre-feet (1,850,234,000 cubic meters):
  - (a) The United States shall adopt measures to assure that not earlier than January 1, 1974, and no later than July 1, 1974, the approximately 1,360,000 acre-feet (1,677,545,000 cubic meters) delivered to Mexico upstream of Morelos Dam, have an annual average salinity of no more than 115 p.p.m.+30 p.p.m. Mexican count) over the annual average salinity of Colorado River waters which arrive at Imperial Dam, with the understanding that any waters that may be delivered to Mexico under the Treaty of 1944 by means of the All American Canal shall be considered as having been delivered upstream of Morelos Dam for the purpose of computing this salinity.

[Reproduced from the text provided to *International Legal Materials* by the U.S. Department of State.] [Both Governments approved the Minute through an exchange of Notes on the same day that the International Boundary and Water Commission made its recommendation.]

- (b) The United States will continue to deliver to Mexico on the land boundary at San Luis and in the limitrophe section of the Colorado River downstream from Morelos Dam approximately 140,000 acre-feet (172,689,000 cubic meters) annually with a salinity substantially the same as that of the waters customarily delivered there.
- (c) Any decrease in deliveries under point 1(b) will be made up by an equal increase in deliveries under point 1(a).
- (d) Any other substantial changes in the aforementioned volumes of water at the stated locations must be agreed to by the Commission.
- (e) Implementation of the measures referred to in point 1(a) above is subject to the requirement in point 10 of the authorization of the necessary works.

2. The life of Minute No. 241 shall be terminated upon approval of the present Minute. From September 1, 1973, until the provisions of point 1(a) become effective, the United States shall discharge to the Colorado River downstream from Morelos Dam volumes of drainage waters from the Wellton-Mohawk District at the annual rate of 118,000 acre-feet (145,551,000 cubic meters) and substitute therefor an equal volume of other waters to be discharged to the Colorado River above Morelos Dam; and, pursuant to the decision of President Echeverria expressed in the Joint Communique of June 17, 1972, the United States shall discharge to the Colorado River downstream from Morelos Dam the drainage waters of the Wellton-Mohawk District that do not form a part of the volumes of drainage waters referred to above, with the understanding that this remaining volume will not be replaced by substitution waters. The Commission shall continue to account for the drainage waters discharged below Morelos Dam as part of those described in the provisions of Article 10 of the Water Treaty of February 3, 1944.

3. As a part of the measures referred to in point 1(a), the United States shall extend in its territory the concrete-lined Wellton-Mohawk bypass drain from Morelos Dam to the Arizona-Sonora international boundary, and operate and maintain the portions of the Wellton-Mohawk bypass drain located in the United States.

4. To complete the drain referred to in point 3, Mexico, through the Commission and at the expense of the United States, shall construct, operate and maintain an extension of the concrete-lined bypass drain from the Arizona-Sonora international boundary to the Santa Clara Slough of a capacity of 353 cubic feet (10 cubic meters) per second. Mexico shall permit the United States to discharge through this drain to the Santa Clara Slough all or a portion of the Wellton-Mohawk drainage waters, the volumes of brine from such desalting operations in the United States as are carried out to implement the Resolution of this Minute, and any other volumes of brine which Mexico may agree to accept. It is understood that no radioactive material or nuclear wastes shall be discharged through this drain, and that the United States shall acquire no right to navigation,

servitude or easement by reason of the existence of the drain, nor other legal rights, except as expressly provided in this point.

5. Pending the conclusion by the Governments of the United States and Mexico of a comprehensive agreement on groundwater in the border areas, each country shall limit pumping of groundwaters in its territory within five miles (eight kilometers) of the Arizona-Sonora boundary near San Luis to 160,000 acre-feet (197,358,000 cubic meters) annually.

6. With the objective of avoiding future problems, the United States and Mexico shall consult with each other prior to undertaking any new development of either the surface or the groundwater resources, or undertaking substantial modifications of present developments, in its own territory in the border area that might adversely affect the other country.

7. The United States will support efforts by Mexico to obtain appropriate financing on favorable terms for the improvement and rehabilitation of the Mexicali Valley. The United States will also provide non-reimbursable assistance on a basis mutually acceptable to both countries exclusively for those aspects of the Mexican rehabilitation program of the Mexicali Valley relating to the salinity problem, including tile drainage. In order to comply with the above-mentioned purposes, both countries will undertake negotiations as soon as possible.

8. The United States and Mexico shall recognize the undertakings and understandings contained in this Resolution as constituting the permanent and definitive solution of the salinity problem referred to in the Joint Communique of President Richard Nixon and President Luis Echeverria dated June 17, 1972.

9. The measures required to implement this Resolution shall be undertaken and completed at the earliest practical date.

10. This Minute is subject to the express approval of both Governments by exchange of Notes. It shall enter into force upon such approval; provided, however, that the provisions which are dependent for their implementation on the construction of works or on other measures which require expenditure of funds by the United States, shall become effective upon the notification by the United States to Mexico of the authorization by the United States Congress of said funds, which will be sought promptly.

Thereupon, the meeting adjourned.