

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua
February 22, 1977

MINUTE NO. 256

EXTENSION OF MINUTES NOS. 240, 243, 245 AND 252 REGARDING
EMERGENCY DELIVERIES OF COLORADO RIVER WATERS FOR
USE IN TIJUANA

The Commission met in the offices of the Mexican Section in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua at 10:00 A. M. on February 22, 1977, to consider the need to extend for one year the emergency deliveries by the United States to Mexico of a portion of the waters of the Colorado River allotted to Mexico by the 1944 Water Treaty, at a point on the international boundary near the City of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, Mexico, pursuant to Minutes Nos. 240, 243, 245 and 252, which provide that those deliveries be made for a period of five years which would terminate August 14, 1977.

The Commission noted that Mexico is actively constructing permanent works to supply water to the City of Tijuana, which consist of an aqueduct of 141 cubic feet (four cubic meters) per second capacity and 78.3 miles (126 km) long, to carry the waters from the westernmost part of the Mexicali Valley to a treatment plant located 8.7 miles (14 km) east of Tijuana. Forming part of the aqueduct are six pumping plants each of 70.6 cubic feet (two cubic meters) per second, initial capacity, to lift the water 3770 feet (1,150 meters), a tunnel 2.4 miles (3.8 km) long and another 4.2 miles (6.8 km) long, and a dam to form a reservoir of 27,560 acre-feet (34 million cubic meters) capacity, to store waters pumped, which would be used during emergencies which may occur in the pumping plants and in the part of the aqueduct located upstream from the dam.

The two Commissioners considered the progress of the construction of the permanent works to supply water to Tijuana which they observed on a visit in July 1976 to the site of the works, and the information furnished to them during the visit concerning the measures that Mexico is taking so that the operation of the works may begin in July 1977. They agreed that in spite of those measures, there is a possibility that the completion of the works may be delayed by difficulties inherent in the excavation and lining of the 4.2 miles (6.8 km) of tunnel and in the manufacture, transportation and installation of the equipment necessary for the initial pumping of 70.6 cubic feet (2 cubic meters) per second.

The Commission considered that if the completion of the permanent works should be delayed until after termination of the five-year period for the deliveries of water to Tijuana provided for in Minute No. 240, Mexico would have to begin strict rationing of potable water in the City of Tijuana, which would have a grave economic impact on its inhabitants and would risk the health of that community and neighboring U.S. communities. The Commission therefore considered that it would be in the interest of the two countries to extend for one year the period of deliveries stated in Minute No. 240.

The Commission then considered the information provided by the United States Commissioner that the agencies of his country that own and operate the hydraulic facilities used to make the emergency deliveries of Colorado River waters to Mexico are willing and able to extend the period of said deliveries for one year, until August 14, 1978, under the conditions established in Minutes Nos. 240, 243, 245 and 252, provided that Mexico actively continue the construction of the permanent works for the supply of potable water for the City of Tijuana to put them into operation as soon as possible, and with the following further conditions:

a) In the event that during the one-year extension, it is not practical to continue the transfer from Mexico to the United States of the electrical energy required to pump the waters of the Colorado River which are delivered to Mexico at the international boundary near Tijuana, as provided for in Minute No. 245, Mexico will suspend that transfer and will pay the additional charge for the energy required for the same purpose.

b) During the one year extension, Mexico will pay increases in the charge for treatment of waters which are delivered to Mexico at the international boundary near Tijuana, equal to increases imposed by agencies of the United States on water users in San Diego County, over the charge of \$17.00 per acre-foot, which will begin July 1, 1977, in accordance with Minute No. 252.

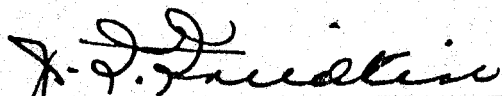
Based on the foregoing considerations, the Commission adopted the following Resolution:

1. That the emergency deliveries by the United States to Mexico of a portion of the waters of the Colorado River allotted to Mexico by the 1944 Water Treaty at a point on the international boundary near the City of Tijuana, Baja California Norte, pursuant to Minutes Nos. 240, 243, 245 and 252, be extended for one year, until August 14, 1978, with the additional conditions stated in preceding paragraphs a) and b).

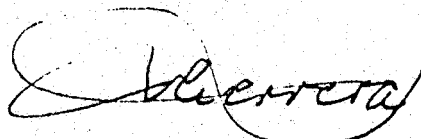
2. That Mexico actively pursue the construction of the permanent works to supply potable water to the City of Tijuana, with the objective of putting them in operation as soon as possible.

3. That this Minute requires the specific approval of the two Governments.

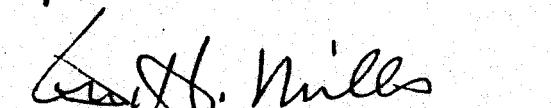
The meeting was adjourned.



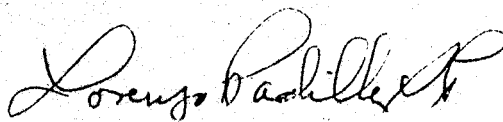
Commissioner of the United States



Commissioner of Mexico



Secretary of the United States Section



Secretary of the Mexican Section