Brown Bag Webinar Today

Civil Society in the Binational Agreements of the Colorado River: Advocacy Meets Shuttle Diplomacy

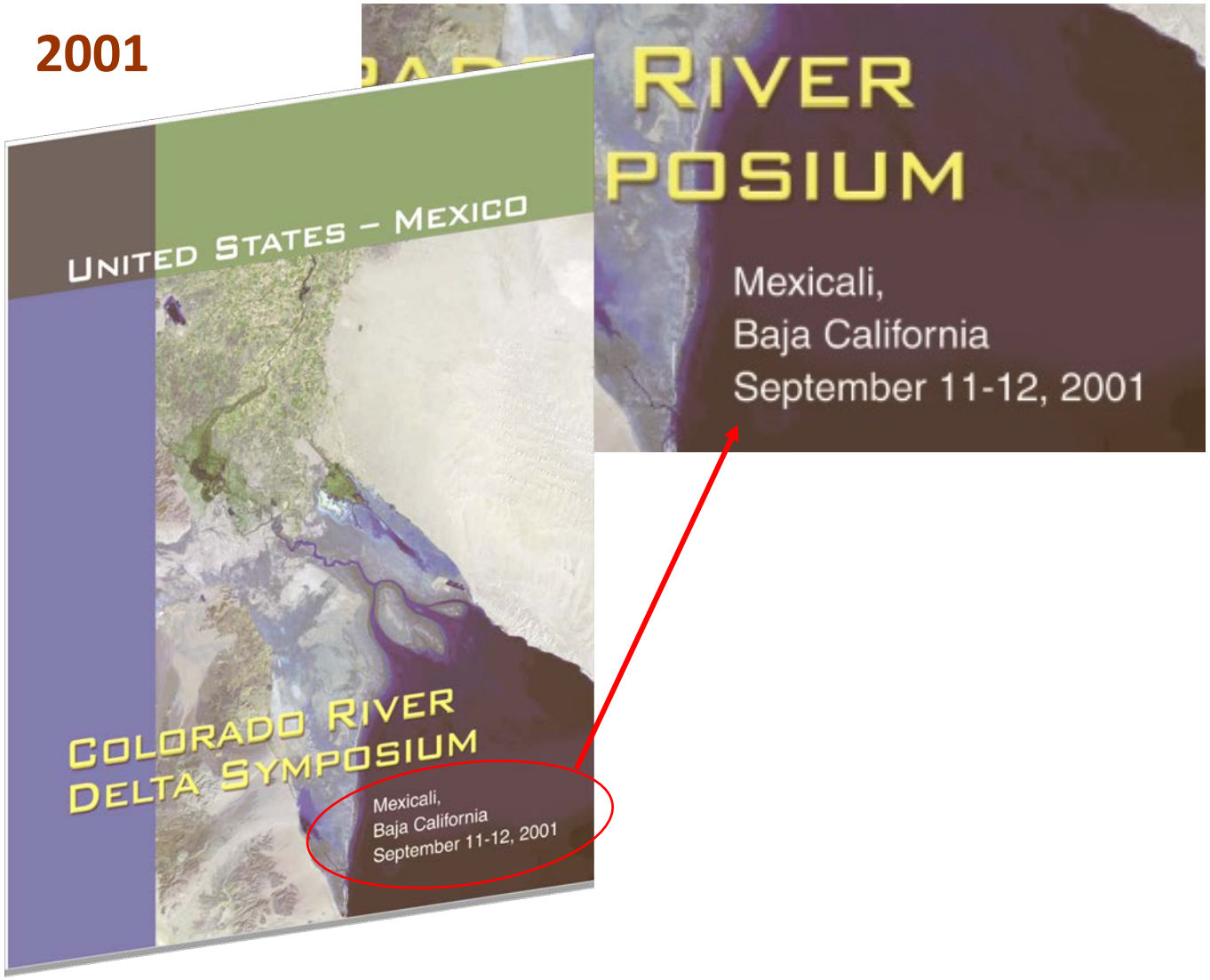
Speaker: Carlos A. de la Parra, *Chair of the Board, Restauremos el Colorado, AC*

Date: Tuesday, April 19

Time: 12:00pm to 1:15pm

Gobernanza y diplomacia participativa y coalición de causa (ONGs):

2001



2005

...El vehículo no-gubernamental:

Prioridades de Conservación, 2005: Esfuerzo incluyente gobierno-ONGs-USA&MEX

Zona ecológica		Áreas prioritarias para la conservación	Extensión (ha)
Corredor ripario	1	Corredor ripario	20,643
Río Hardy	2	Alto Río Hardy	1,358
	3	Río Hardy Cucapá	4,337
	4	Restauración del Campo Mosqueda	21
	5	Caiman	280
	6	Campo Sonora-Río El Mayor	195
Humedales alejados del canal	7a	Marismas de la Ciénega de Santa Clara	6,147
	7b	Planicies lodosas de la Ciénega de Santa Clara	9,988
	7c	Restauración de la Ciénega de Santa Clara	5,016
	8	Humedales El Doctor	864
	9	humedales Andrade Mesa	3,090
	10	Estanques de Cerro Prieto	2,017
	11	Pangas Viejas	116
	12	Laguna El Indio	780
Costera, marina e intermareal	13	El Borrascoso	5,813
	14	Costera y estuarina	228,841
	15	Vaquita Marina-Roca Consag	55,975

Fuente: Francisco Zamora, et al. 2005.

Outreach, Vision, Strategy recommendations

Conservation Before Shortage

Proposed Shortage Criteria for
Colorado River Operations

I. Background/Context

The effects of a multi-year drought have had a tremendous impact on storage in the Colorado River basin. Although above-average precipitation in the Lower Basin has led to small recoveries in system storage over the winter of 2004-2005, total system storage on the Colorado River has decreased by more than 40% over the past several years. As a result, there is a real possibility that the Secretary of the Interior will declare an actual shortage on the lower Colorado River in the near future. A shortage declaration would reduce deliveries to the Central Arizona Project (CAP) and to southern Nevada (which are among the first in line for cuts in the event of a shortage).

The surface elevation of Lake Mead dropped more than 80 feet from the end of 2000 through the end of 2004; Lake Powell dropped by more than 115 feet in this period. The Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation's) Riverware model of the Colorado, based on historic flow records, projects that reservoir levels at Lake Powell could head quickly towards the minimum power pool if the drought continues, and reservoir levels at Lake Mead could fall below the elevation of southern Nevada's upper intakes or remain in a long-term decline that will be difficult to reverse until Powell begins to re-fill. In addition, the model predicts that even if precipitation levels returned to average today, it could take 10-20 years for the Colorado River reservoir system to recover fully (during which time continued development of water supplies in the Upper Basin will further shrink available supplies). As a result, it is time to begin a long-delayed discussion about the method for defining, mitigating, and sharing shortages on the Colorado River.

Although the Secretary of the Department of the Interior (Secretary) has the authority to declare a shortage on the Colorado River, thereby reducing deliveries to some Lower Colorado River contractors, to date no criteria exist for determining when such a shortage will be declared. In June 2005, the Department of the Interior (DOI) noticed its intent to begin a public scoping process for the development of "Lower Basin Shortage Guidelines," (70 Fed.Reg. 34794). In 2004, DOI initiated a series of technical meetings with the Colorado Basin states to discuss drought issues, and the seven Basin states met frequently among themselves throughout the winter of 2004-2005 to discuss potential shortage criteria. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were not invited to participate in these discussions; however, several NGOs with interest and expertise in Colorado River issues began meeting over the winter to develop an alternative shortage proposal. These organizations met with Reclamation staff to review the results of technical modeling runs developed in support of the states' discussions, and Reclamation has provided additional modeling data to these interested NGOs in response to their inquiries and to evaluate potential shortage criteria.

These meetings led to the development of this document, which proposes an approach to the management of shortages in the Lower Colorado through the implementation of a tiered conservation program that is tied to the surface elevation of Lake Mead.

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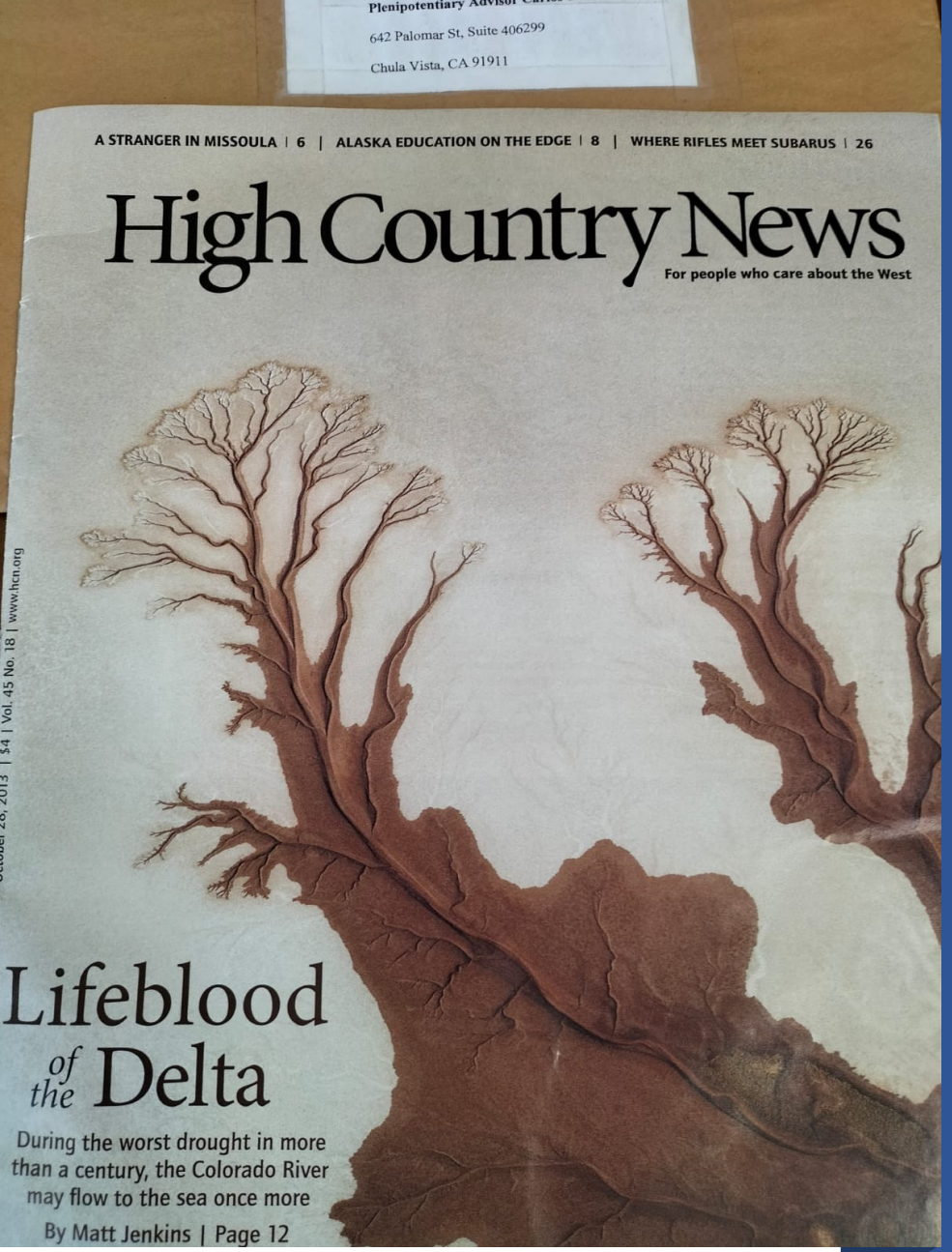
CBS Shortage Proposal 1 July 18, 2005



NGOs' Roles over time

- 2007- June, meeting of State Water Principals from both countries at COLEF
- Mexico and the *environmental card* on route towards the Minute
- Shuttle diplomacy (honoring confidentiality)
  - Limits of offers, proposals
- Useful to avoid *bureaucratic turf wars*
  - *Soft presence*

Environmental Work Group Schedule

November 30, 2017 – San Ysidro
January 30, 2018 – Tijuana
April 25, 2018 – Yuma
April 26, 2018 – Tour
July 26, 2018 – Tijuana
October 23, 2018 – San Ysidro
October 24-25, 2018 – science workshop & tour
~~January 24, 2019 – Tijuana (US shutdown)~~
April 25, 2019 – San Ysidro
June 27-28, 2019 – Imperial Beach
October 17-18, 2019 – Tijuana
February 26-28, 2020 – Mexicali
May 6, 2020 – science workshop online
May 7, 2020 – Online
June 16, 2020 – Online
July 21, 2020 – Online
August 25, 2020 – Online
October 1, 2020 – Online
November 10, 2020 – Online
February 24, 2021 – Online
~~March 17, 2021 – Online (flow status uncertain)~~
~~March 24, 2021 – Online (flow status uncertain)~~
~~April 14, 2021 – Online (flow status uncertain)~~
May 26, 2021 – Online
June 16, 2021 – Online
July 21, 2021 – Online
August 25, 2021 – Online
September 22, 2021 – Online
October 20, 2021 – Online
November 17, 2021 – Online
December 15, 2021 - Online

Environmental Work Group Documents

Planning

Restoration Eligibility Criteria Document

Restoration Programmatic Framework

Water Delivery Programmatic Framework

Monitoring Programmatic Framework

2018 Restoration and Water Delivery Plan

2018 Monitoring Plan

2019 Restoration and Water Delivery Plan

2019 Monitoring Plan

2020 Restoration and Water Delivery Plan

2020 Monitoring Plan

2021 Restoration and Water Delivery Plan

2021 Monitoring Plan

Draft

Final

Reporting

* Implementation reports include annual progress (effort) plus Minute 323 tracking for $ and water

* Monitoring reports include data and analyses that document impact

2018 Implementation Report (in 2019)

2018 Monitoring Report (in 2020)

2019 Implementation Report (in 2020)

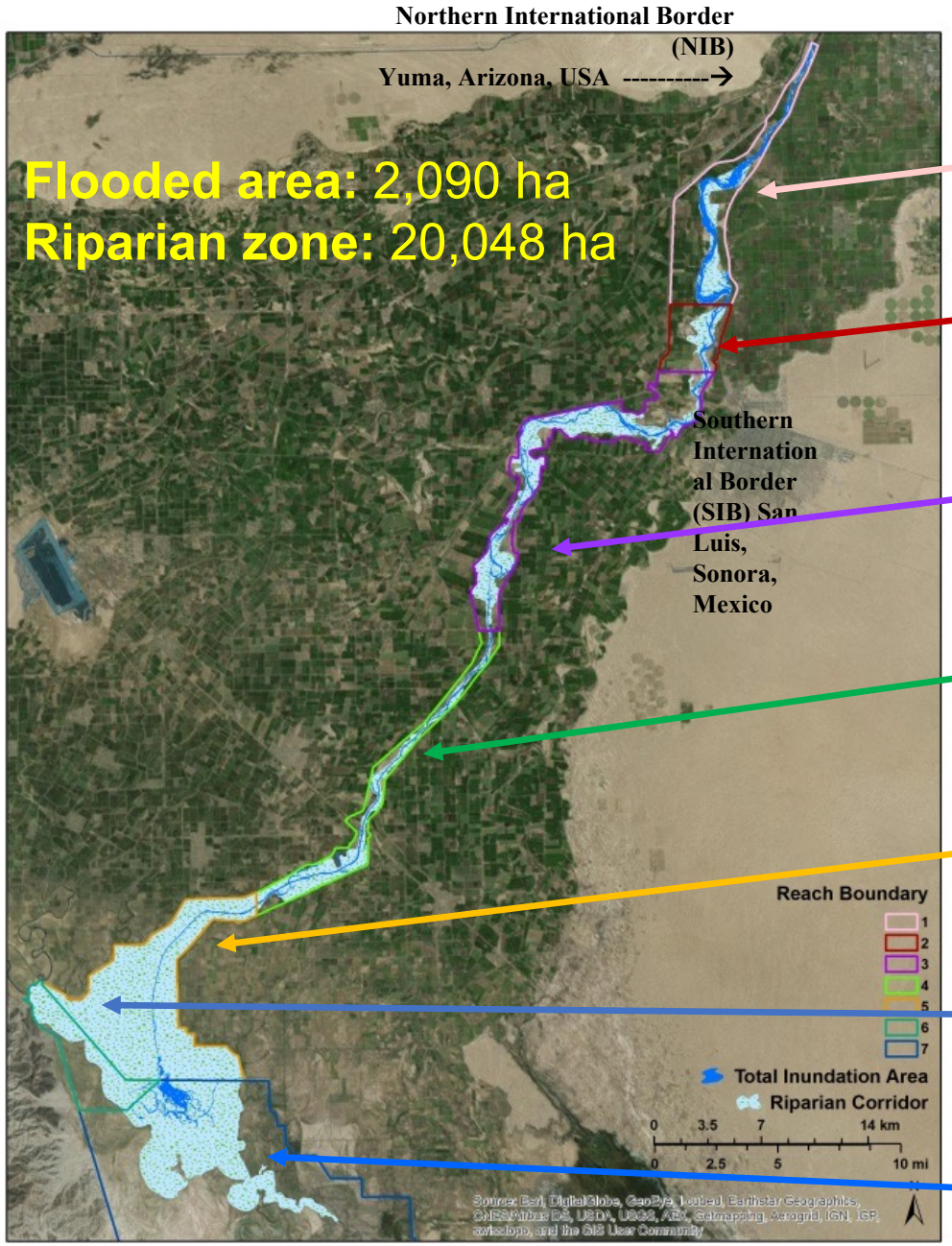
2020 Implementation Report (in 2021)

2019 - 2020 Monitoring Report (in 2021)

Annual Implementation Reports thereafter

Biannual monitoring reports thereafter

Desarrollo/Despliegue de capacidades



Zona 1. Presencia de agua y cobertura significativa de vegetación ribereña nativa

Zona 2. Arroyo seco, por lo general; flujo estacional de agua, acuífero somero. Potencial para restauración (Sitio Miguel Alemán)

Zona 3. San Luis Río Colorado; segmento seco, de 34 km de longitud. Acuífero profundo.

Zona 4. Zona central del delta; parches significativos de álamo-sauce. Agua presente en varios sitios. (Sitio Laguna Grande)

Zona 5. Segmento de meandros, limitada presencia de agua superficial, alta salinidad

Zona 6. Alto Río Hardy, con abundante presencia de agua de elevada salinidad. Bosques de mezquite, actividad recreativa.

Zona 7. Bajo Río Colorado, presencia modesta pero constante de agua; hábitat estuarino.

Caracterización ecológica

Fuente: Osvel

Minute 319 to Minute323

Table 1. Minute 323 Accounting

		2019 Annual Expenditures and Water Volumes				Minute 323 cumulative expenditures and water volumes				Minute 323 Targets
		Mexico	United States	NGO	Grand Total for 2019, annual	Mexico	United States	NGO	Grand Total for Minute 323, cumulative	2018-2026
Expenditures for restoration ($)		$1,864,004	$315,509	$1,002,175	$3,181,688	$3,412,476	$315,509	$1,851,682	$5,579,667	$9,000,000
Expenditures for monitoring and science ($)		$ 88,957	$935,815	$359,030	$1,383,802	$158,560	$1,249,183	$766,079	$2,173,822	$9,000,000
Volume of water deliveries	m^3	0	0	13,579,875	13,579,875	0	0	22,114,755	22,114,755	258,000,000
	AF			11,009	11,009			17,929	17,929	210,000
Total		**$1,952,961**	**$1,251,324**	**$1,361,205**	**$4,565,490**	**$3,571,036**	**$1,564,692**	**$2,617,761**	**$7,753,489**	**$18,000,000**

An evolution in agricultural water

Central Gob of MX cut irrigation districts loose in 1992 but the economic basis for water markets remain unchanged…

My contention: AAC was the result of cross-border differences in water markets

Minute 319/323 displays a CILA showing leadership, NGOs partnering binationally, CONAGUA catching up (or trying to), Ag sector lagging behind, learning or resisting

Outreach to agricultural community