The Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy and the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters Regional Event

Bridges Over Water

Between Mexico and the United States

Tuesday - Wednesday
October 20th - 21st 2026
Monterrey, Nuevo León, México.

Museo de Historia Mexicana Auditorium
Dr. José Ma. Coss 445, Centro, 64000 Monterrey, N.L.

Cohosts and sponsors

- **Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy**
- **California Institute for Water Resources**
- **University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR)**
- **Fundación México-Estados Unidos para la Ciencia**
- **Permanent Forum of Binational Waters**
- **Colegio de la Frontera Norte**
- **University of California, Alianza MX**
- **Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, The University of Arizona**

In the tradition of the Rosenberg Forum's mission to reduce conflict and foster cooperation in water resources management, this event will promote open, respectful, and candid conversation where panelists and attendees engage and learn from each other about the challenges and solutions for shared waters of Mexico and the United States. Drawing on the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters' commitment to bridging science and policy, the event will bring together a mix of researchers, water managers, policymakers, local agencies, civil society organizations, and private sector voices from both sides of the border. This event will produce concrete findings and priority actions that reflect the full diversity of perspectives in the room.

Permanent Forum of Binational Waters
Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy
UNIVERSIDAD DE CALIFORNIA Agricultura y Recursos Naturales

Objectives

- Build a greater shared understanding of water resources held in common by Mexico and the United States: the Rio Grande/Bravo, the Colorado River, and transboundary groundwater systems.
- Deepen understanding of the problems, barriers, and governance gaps limiting effective binational water management, recognizing the asymmetries and competing interests on both sides of the border.
- Identify and amplify what is working (e.g. existing mechanisms and agreements) and extract transferable lessons from this region and comparable international basins.
- Examine challenges and solutions across multiple spatial and temporal scales: from the basin and binational level down to regional, local, and community scales, acknowledging that what works at one scale may look very different at another.
- Ensure the local context is heard — giving voice to local agencies, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and private-sector actors whose daily realities are shaped by these shared waters.
- Propose and discuss concrete solutions and priority actions that can advance cooperation and water security in the near and long term.
- Produce outcomes: Video recordings of interviews and a synthesis of the meeting.

Invited Audience

- Water scholars and researchers from the USA and Mexico
- Water managers and agency officials
- Policymakers and 1944 water treaty stewards
- Private sector actors (agriculture, energy, industry, water technology)
- Civil society, NGOs, and community-based organizations
- Indigenous and tribal water rights holders
- Federal, state, local agencies and municipalities
- Students and members of the press

To register for the event click HERE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 2026.

TIME	PRESENTATION / PANEL
09:00 am	**Check-in with coffee and refreshments** The main session room opens at 10:00 am.
10:00 am	**Welcome & Introductions** **Moderator: Erik Porse,** Director, California Institute for Water Resources, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, USA
10:15 am	• **Soroosh Sorooshian,** Rosenberg Forum Chair, Distinguished Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering & Earth System Science, University of California, Irvine, USA • **Glenda Humiston**, Vice President, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, USA • **Aaron Melaas,** Associate Director for Research & Innovation, University of California, Alianza MX, Mexico & USA • **Rosario Sánchez**, Director, Permanent Forum of Binational Waters, Mexico & USA • **Ismael Aguilar Benítez**, Professor & Researcher, Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico
10:35 am	**Keynote I:** US-Mexico Border Water Issues **Samuel Sandoval Solís**, Cooperative Extension Specialist, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources and Professor, University of California Davis, USA
10:50 am	**Q&A for clarifying questions from audience**
10:55 am	**Panel Discussion 1**: Current State of the Rio Grande/Río Bravo **Moderator: Rosario Sánchez,** Director, Permanent Forum of Binational Waters, Mexico & USA
11:00 am	• **Rosario Álvarez,** Executive Director, Pronatura, Mexico • **Gabriel Eckstein,** Lawyer and Professor, School of Law, Texas A&M University, USA
11:25 am	**Facilitated Discussion with the Audience**

TIME	PRESENTATION / PANEL
11:45 am	**Break**
12:15 pm	**Panel Discussion 2**: Future State of Rio Grande/Río Bravo **Moderator: Samuel Sandoval Solís,** Cooperative Extension Specialist, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources and Professor, University of California Davis, USA
12:20 pm	• **Víctor Hugo Guerra Cobián,** Professor & Researcher, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Mexico • **Carmen Julia Navarro,** Professor and Researcher, University of Chihuahua, Mexico
12:45 pm	**Facilitated Discussion with the Audience**
01:05 pm	**Lunch**
02:05 pm	**Keynote II:** Perspective from Mexico **Ismael Aguilar Benítez,** Professor & Researcher, Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico
02:20 pm	**Q&A for clarifying questions from audience**
02:25 pm	**Panel Discussion 3**: Regional Stakeholders **Moderator: Ismael Aguilar Benítez,** Professor & Researcher, Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico
02:30 pm	• **Gabrielle Roman,** Project Specialist, Fundación MX-US para la Ciencia (FUMEC) • **Ofelia G. Garza Delgado,** President of Consorcio Binacional Comercio Exterior, Petróleo, Energía y Gas (CEPEGAS) AC and President of the General Assembly of Water Users for the Río Bravo Basin • **Eduardo Ismael Ortegón Williamson,** Chair at Consejo de Cuenca del Río Bravo and Director General at Servicios de Agua y Drenaje de Monterrey
02:55 pm	**Facilitated Discussion with the Audience**
03:15 pm	**Break**

TIME	PRESENTATION / PANEL
03:45 pm	**Panel Discussion 4**: Lessons Learned and Motivations for New Leaders **Moderator: Iris Aguilar,** Project Manager, Permanent Forum of Binational Waters, USA
03:50 pm	• **Patricia Fernández Guajardo,** Professor-Researcher, Dept. of Social Sciences, School of Law and Social Sciences, Universidad de Monterrey, Mexico • **Alfredo Granados Olivas,** Professor, Geosciences and Groundwater Hydrology, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, Mexico • **Aldo Ramírez Orozco,** Professor-Researcher and Director of the Water Center for Latin America and The Caribbean, Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education, Mexico
04:15 pm	**Facilitated Discussion with the Audience**
04:35 pm	**Key take aways from the day** • **Moderators:** Iris Aguilar, Ismael Aguilar Benítez, Erik Porse, Rosario Sánchez, and Samuel Sandoval Solís
04:50 pm	**Adjourn**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21TH, 2026.

TIME	PRESENTATION / PANEL
09:00 am	**Check-in with coffee and refreshments** The main session room opens at 10:00 am.
10:10 am	**Opening Session** Moderator: **Newsha Ajami**, Director, Governance for Risk, Resilience, and Recovery Program (GR3), Stanford University, USA
10:15 am	**Keynote III: Current State of the Colorado River** **Andrea K. Gerlak**, Professor and Director, School of Geography, Development and Environment and Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona, USA
10:30 am	Q&A for clarifying questions from audience
10:35 am	**Panel Discussion 5: Current and Future State of Colorado River** Moderator: **Andrea Gerlak**, Professor and Director, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona, USA
10:40 am	• **Astrid Hernández-Cruz**, Professor, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Mexico • **Leopoldo Mendoza Espinosa**, Professor, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Mexico • **Gemma Smith,** Assistant Professor, School of Government & Public Policy, University of Arizona, USA
11:05 am	**Facilitated Discussion with the Audience**
11:25 am	**Break**
11:55 am	**Panel Discussion 6: The Power of Stakeholders** Moderator: **Adriana Zúñiga-Terán**, Associate Professor, School of Geography, Development, and Environment, University of Arizona, USA & Mexico
12:00 pm	• **Sharon B. Megdal**, Director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona, USA • **Elia Tapia-Villaseñor**, Co-author, Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona, USA • **Jesús Eliana Rodríguez Burgueño**, Head of the Water Resources and Geographic Information Systems Lab, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Mexico • **Francisco Zamora**, Senior Director of Programs, Sonoran Institute, USA

	& Mexico

TIME	PRESENTATION / PANEL
12:25 pm	**Facilitated Discussion with the Audience**
12:45 pm	**Lunch**
01:45 pm	**Keynote IV: Perspective from Mexico** **Isaac Azuz**, Professor, CETYS Universidad, Mexico
02:00 pm	Q&A for clarifying questions from audience
02:05 pm	**Panel Discussion 7: Managing Risks and Opportunities** Moderator: **Christina Babbitt**, Sustainability Program Manager, Water Stewardship, Meta, USA
02:10 pm	• **Rodrigo Crespo**, Director, Metropolitan Fund of Monterrey, Mexico • **Will Sarni**, Practice Lead for Water and Nature, Earth Finance, USA • **Newsha Ajami**, Director, Governance for Risk, Resilience, and Recovery Program (GR3), Stanford University, USA
02:35 pm	**Facilitated Discussion with the Audience**
02:55 pm	**Break**
03:25 pm	**Panel Discussion 8: Lessons Learned from the Colorado River and the Rio Grande/Río Bravo** **Moderator: Samuel Sandoval Solís,** Cooperative Extension Specialist, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources and Professor, University of California Davis, USA
03:30 pm	• **Ramón Morga**, Institutional Liaison Agua y Drenaje de Monterrey • **Adrian Oglesby**, Director, Utton Center, University of New Mexico, USA
03:50 pm	**Facilitated Discussion with the Audience and Key Takeaways**
04:35 pm	Adjourn