



Discussion Panel: Groundwater and Surface Water Interactions: the Case of the Colorado River Basin vs Rio Bravo Basin .

Dr. Fernando González Villarreal Octubre 2020 contacto@cershi.org



Most salient characteristics and issues





Social and legal.

- Population growth, increases in water demands.
- Different groundwater legal systems in Mexico and US



Water quality

- Dissolved Solids Concentrations in Colorado River deliveries
- Sanitation problems in the Tijuana and Bravo rivers



Groundwater:

- Less infiltration caused by the lining of the All-American Canal. (80 Mm^3 approximately).
- Water transfers to other basins (Los Angeles and San Diego: 1 480 Mm^3 annually) that deminish recharge and return flows.



Climate change:

- Increase in temperatures
- Increasing demands and water stress
- Challenges for governance and water security

DE INGENIERÍA Climate change in colorado river basin



Precipitation



Temperature

- Increases in temparature for the whole basin.
- In upper colorado basin increases in 2°C approximately in 50 years.

In lower colorado basin increases between 1-2 °C

- No statistically significant changes in annual precipitation.
- Mean annual runoff is projected to decrease by 8.5% by 2050. (USBR, 2011)





Relevant events





- Construction of pressure line for wastewaters.
- International wastewater Treatment plant of San Diego (1997)



river

Colorado

- Hoover dam (1931-1936)
- All american canal (1934)
- Glen Canyon dam (1956 - 1966)

Ecological degradation of Colorado Delta and the north of Gulf of California



rive

Falcon dam (1953) Amistad dam (1969) Bravo 289 minute





LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Treaty Peace, friendship, limits and settlement

- (february 2, 1848); new international border.
- Treaty on the Distribution of International Waters (February 3, 1944) after 96 years of negociations.

NAFTA (1994); financing of projects within the border region. (NATBANK and COSEF)

- T-MEC (2020); chapter 24 "Environment"
 - Continental fresh water was not considered
 - Standards to be enforced





- Goverment cooperation to reach agreements
- Creation of institutions for conflict resolutions
 - International Boundary and Water Commission
- Creation of North American Development Bank (NADB) and Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC).





Areas for future cooperation



- More studies and exchange of information are requiered.
- US and Mexican government involvement is needed.
- Surface water-groundwater interaction need to be further studied.
- Consider population growth and climate change to estimate future water demand
- Achieve water security and sustainability



