

Arizona Department of Water Resources



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MEDIA RELEASE

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United States and Mexico Enter into Landmark Agreement for the Management of the Colorado River

Phoenix (November 20, 2012) –The United States and Mexico signed Minute 319 to the 1944 Mexican Water Treaty related to the use of the Colorado River today in San Diego, California. The Minute is a five-year cooperative agreement between Mexico and the United States (on behalf of the seven Colorado River Basin States - including Arizona) that will help ensure that the Colorado River system is able to continue to meet the needs of stakeholders that rely on its flows.

Minute 319 provides a framework for: long-term planning and conservation activities; protection of water levels in Lake Mead to reduce the potential for water shortage; and potential development of additional sources of water from joint United States-Mexico water development projects.

This agreement benefits the State of Arizona through carrying forward provisions of Minute 318, approved in December 2010, allowing for the storage of Mexico's water in Lake Mead, thus providing additional protection against shortage for US water users.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the United States, the seven Basin States (including Arizona) and water agencies in the United States was also signed today in conjunction with Minute 319. This MOA provides Arizona water users additional certainty regarding the implementation of Minute 319 and further cements the cooperative nature of the management of the Colorado River among the US parties.

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