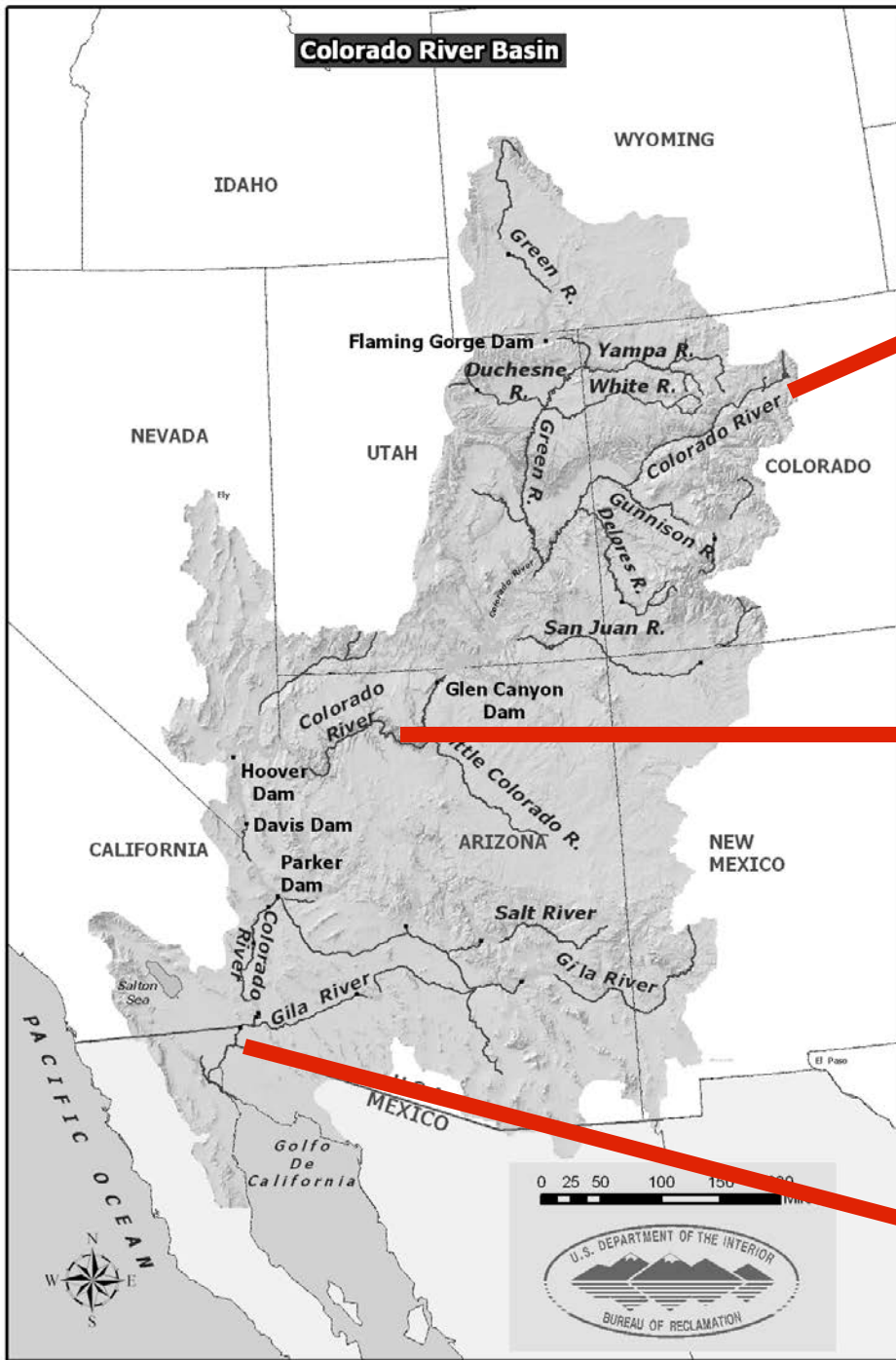


A wide, flat, cracked dry lake bed under a clear blue sky with mountains in the distance. The ground is covered in a dense network of dark, irregular cracks, creating a mosaic of light-colored, polygonal shapes. In the far distance, a range of low mountains is visible against the horizon. A small figure of a person is visible on the left side of the frame, providing a sense of scale to the vast, desolate landscape.

How the United States and Mexico started to restore the Colorado River Delta

Colorado State University, October 7, 2019



Historic Colorado River Delta

Area:

- 1M acres
- 400,000 ha

River flows to the sea:

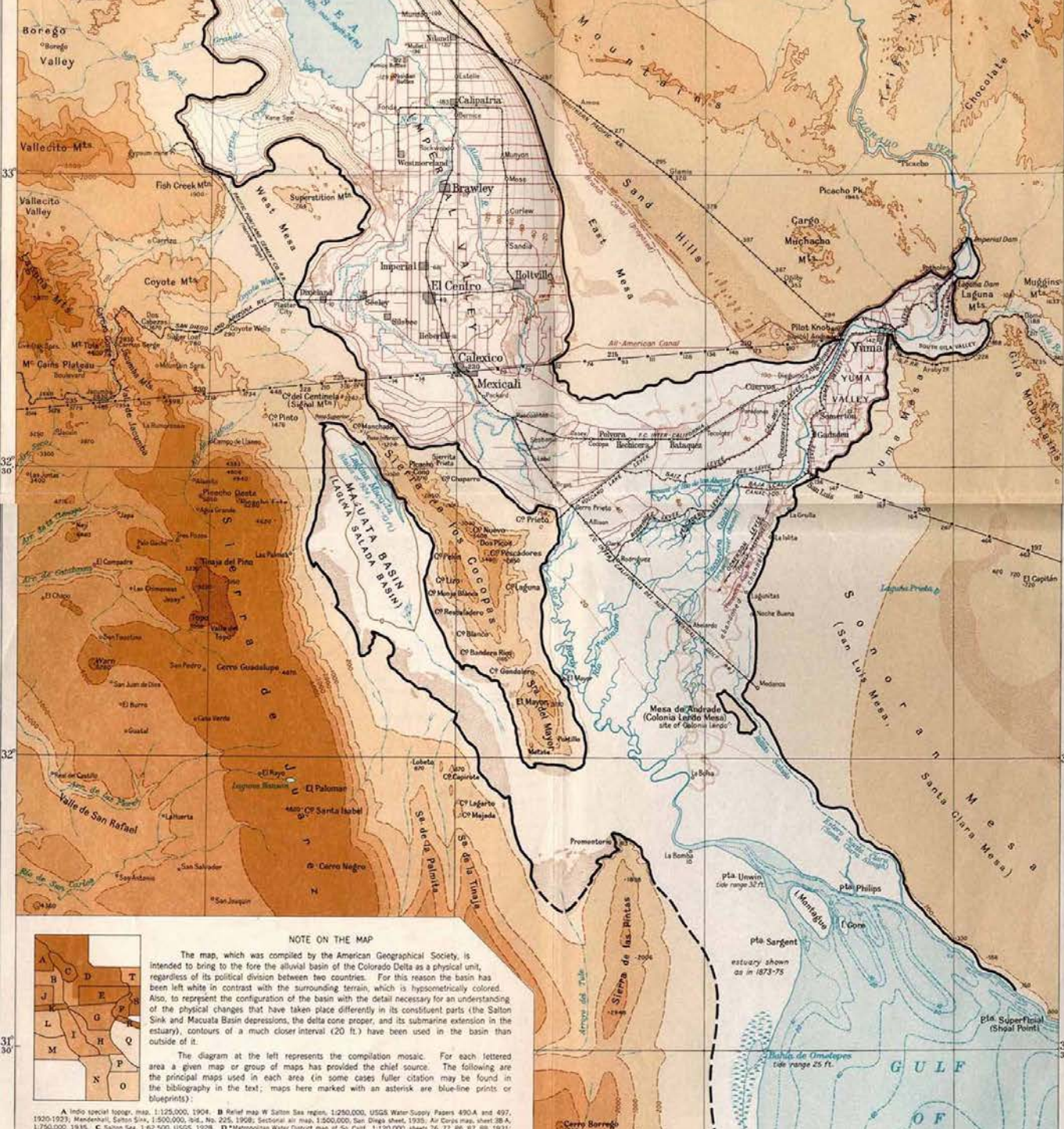
- 15M acre-feet
- 18,500 mcm

Freshwater influence in sea:

- 40 miles
- 65 km

Extensive estuary:

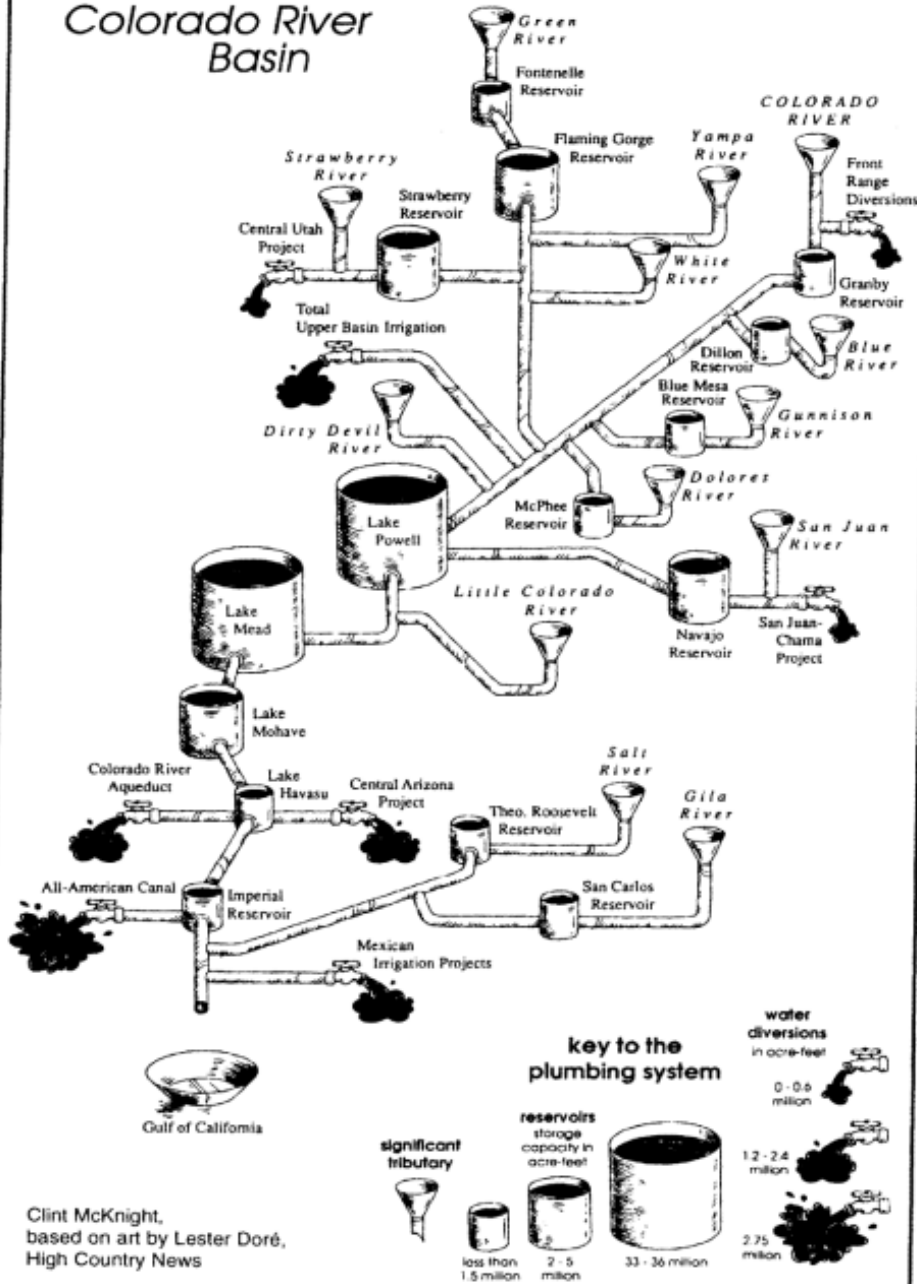
- 1.25 million acres
- 0.5M ha







the **plumbing**
of the
Colorado River
Basin

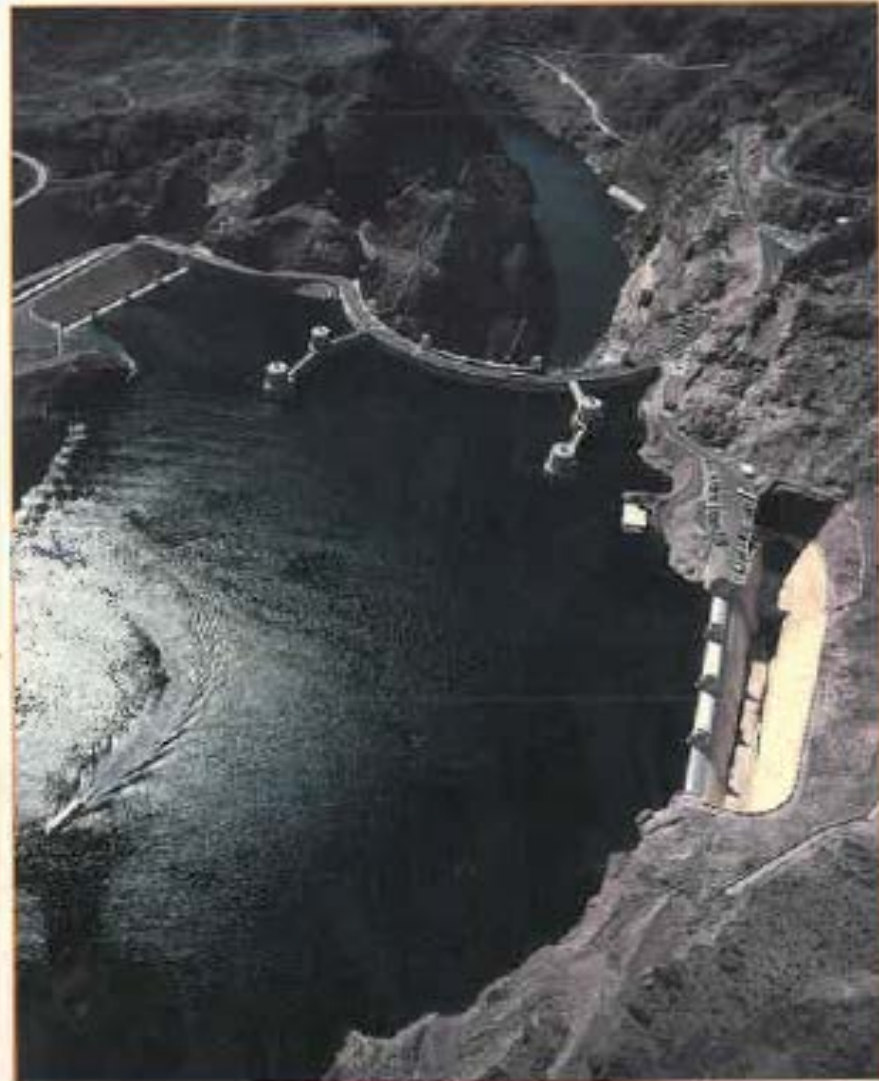


Clint McKnight,
based on art by Lester Doré,
High Country News

A River No More

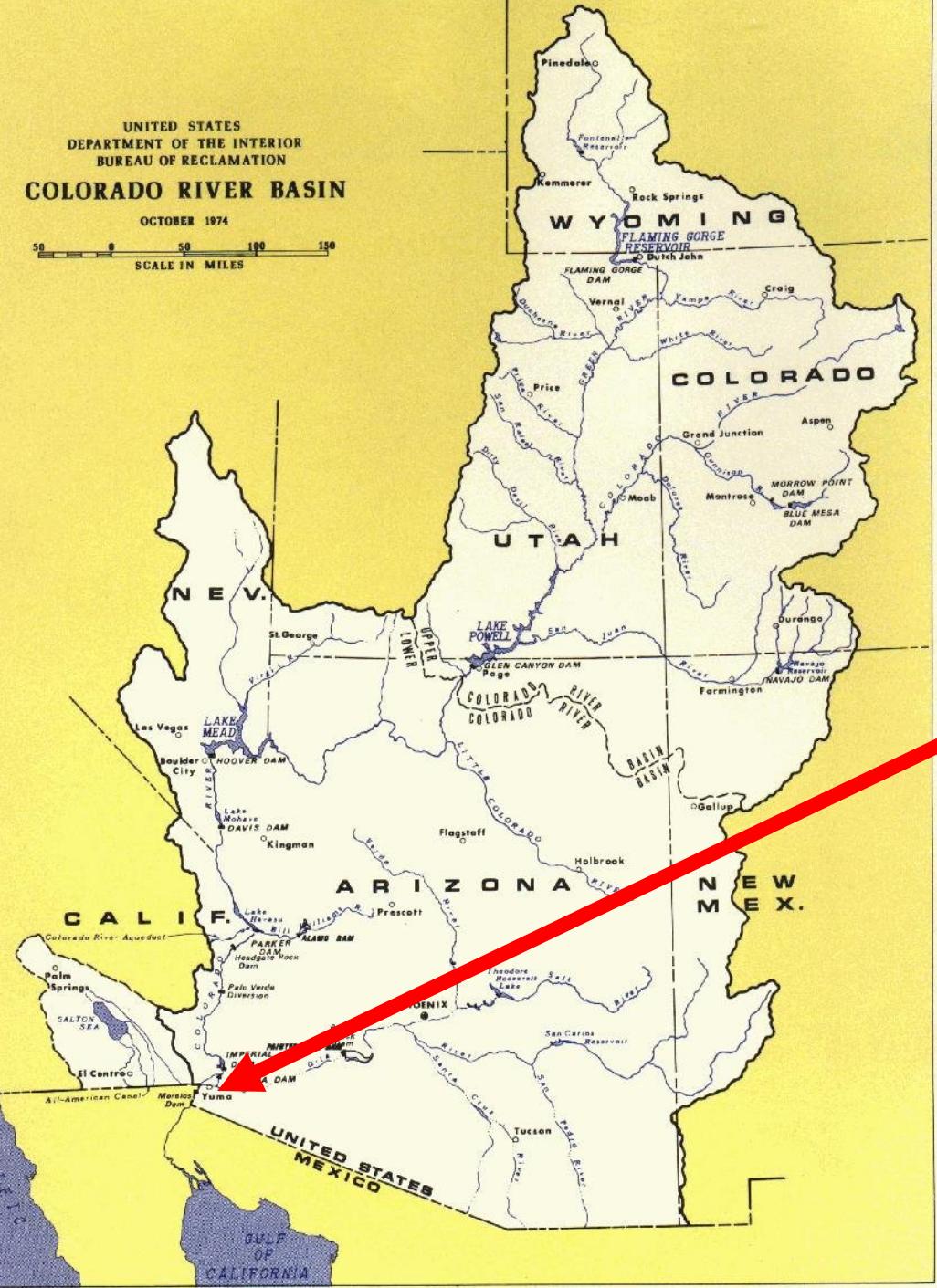
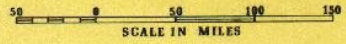
The Colorado River and the West

PHILIP L. FRADKIN

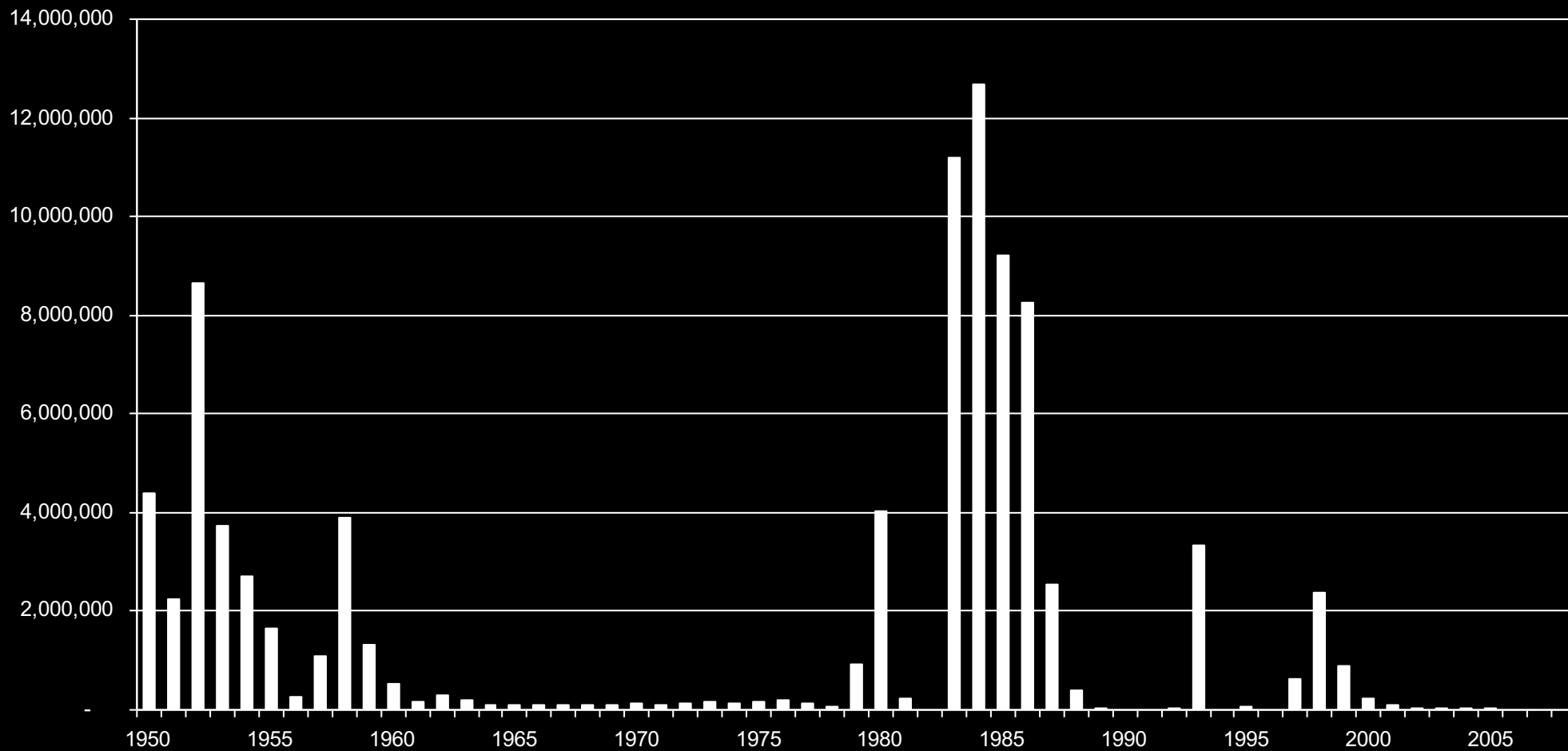


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
COLORADO RIVER BASIN

OCTOBER 1974



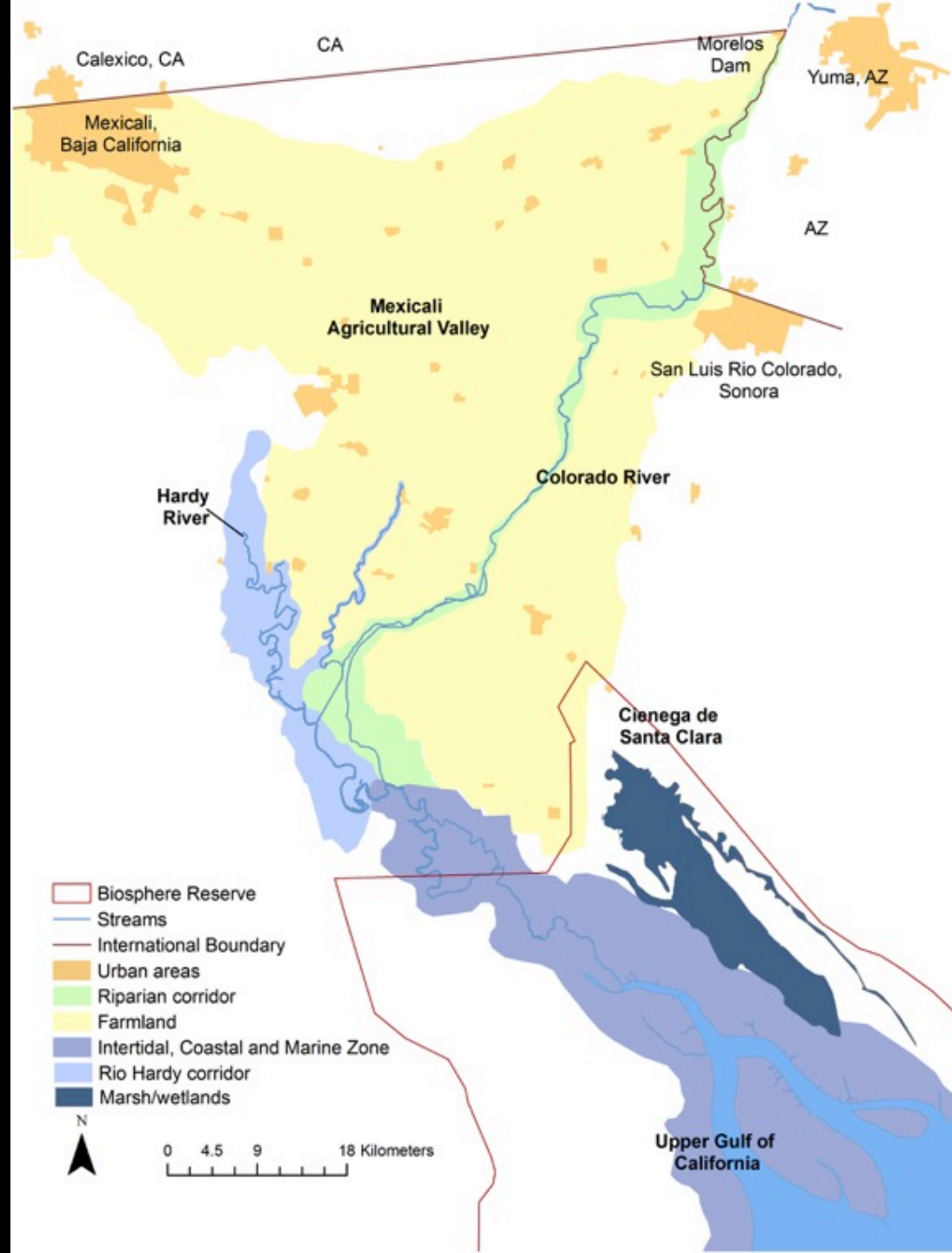
Flows Below Morelos Dam 1950-2008















2008 US – MX Dialogue Begins



NEWS

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. and Mexico Agree to Discuss Joint Cooperative Actions Related to the Colorado River

As a result of high-level bilateral consultations, U.S. and Mexican federal authorities have agreed to discuss a number of issues of mutual concern to both nations related to the Colorado River.

The Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, is responsible for the domestic management of the Colorado River, the waters of which are shared by seven U.S. basin states and Mexico. Mexico's Colorado River allocation is governed by the 1944 Treaty Relating to the Utilization of the Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande, which is administered by the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC).

The U.S. and Mexican authorities have agreed that cooperative, innovative and holistic measures should be considered to ensure that the Colorado River is able to continue to meet environmental, agricultural and urban demands of both nations.

The Mexican authorities stressed the importance of ensuring that the needs of all stakeholders in the lower portion of the Colorado River are understood and considered by leaders of both nations.

The U.S. authorities acknowledged the growing national and international focus on the Colorado River as a result of the ongoing historic drought in the basin and the recent innovative agreements among the seven U.S. states.

The authorities from both nations expressed their interest regarding issues related to the lower portion of the Colorado River, including water conservation actions, while highlighting concepts that could be used to benefit water users in both nations.

In that regard, authorities from both nations agreed that organization with over a century of successful collaborative discussions in coming weeks to further Colorado River issues to be addressed are:

- continued needs of both nations for water for urban, agricultural and industrial uses
- the study of the hydrological system and potential impacts of the ongoing historic Colorado River drought
- environmental priorities, including Colorado River Delta
- opportunities for water conservation, storage and supply augmentation and reuse strategies aimed to ease water stress
- potential opportunities for more efficient Colorado River water use

— DO I —

U.S. Department of the Interior



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U.S. Department
of the Interior

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: January 15, 2008
Contact: Hugh Vickery
202-501-4633

Secretary Kempthorne, Mexican Ambassador Sarukhan Sign Declaration Commending On-Going Partnership in the Management of the Colorado River

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and Mexican Ambassador to the United States Arturo Sarukhan today signed a declaration praising joint efforts to identify additional cooperative measures to improve management of the Colorado River to meet the environmental, agricultural and urban needs of both countries during a period of historic drought.

The joint declaration, signed during a ceremony at the Mexican Embassy, highlights cooperation between the two countries in the past two years under the auspices of the International Boundary and Water Commission to develop innovative approaches to better management of the Colorado's water.

"This joint declaration celebrates and solidifies our long-standing partnership with Mexico to manage the waters of the Colorado to benefit all who depend on this magnificent river system, especially during the current drought," Kempthorne said. "It is an expression of both the good will and good faith our two great countries bestow upon each other as neighbors who share the vital waters of the Colorado River."

The United States and Mexico agreed to the allotment of the waters of the Colorado River in the 1944 Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande and concluded subsequent agreements which are administered by the International Boundary and Water Commission.

In August, 2007, the two countries issued the U.S.-Mexico Joint Statement on Colorado River Cooperative Actions. The commission established "a framework for the discussion, joint study, investigation and evaluation of cooperative, innovative and holistic measures that may benefit Colorado River water users in the United States and Mexico."

Today's declaration reaffirms the continued support of both countries to "efforts to identify innovative opportunities for water conservation, storage, supply augmentation, and environmental protection."

- NGOs stage meetings
- Key federal leaders want to improve relations
- States want rules for Mexico to share shortage





International Boundary & Water Commission,
U.S. Section

San Diego Projects Office
2225 Dairy Mart Road



Colorado River Delta Water Trust
now managed by Restauremos El Colorado

Based in Mexico, operates
under Mexican law

Acquires Colorado River
water rights in Mexicali
Valley

Voluntary, market-based
strategies

Delivers water for
restoration

Current assets ~9000 af
(11 mcm)





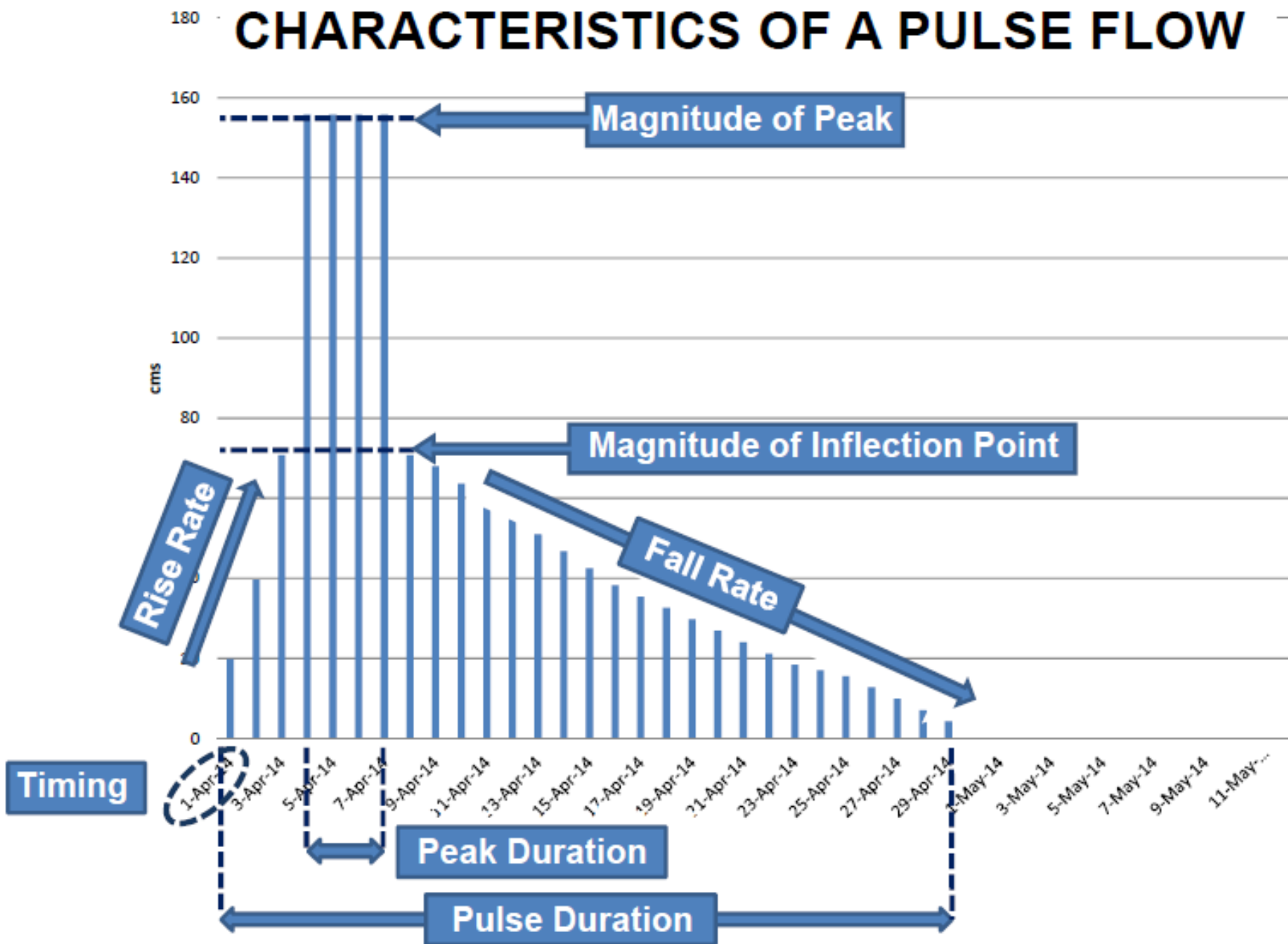
Minute 319 2012-2017



- 1944 Treaty did not define Mexico's shortages
- Mexico and US agree to reduced uses in times of short supply, surplus sharing in wet periods
- Binational investments in water conservation
- Mexico stores water in Mead
- Water exchanges
- Venue to explore new areas for cooperation
- Binational commitments to restoration in Colorado River delta
 - Pulse flow (federal water)
 - Base flows (NGO water)
 - \$3M for restoration
 - Resources for monitoring



CHARACTERISTICS OF A PULSE FLOW















Francisco Zamora,
with support from
Lighthawk

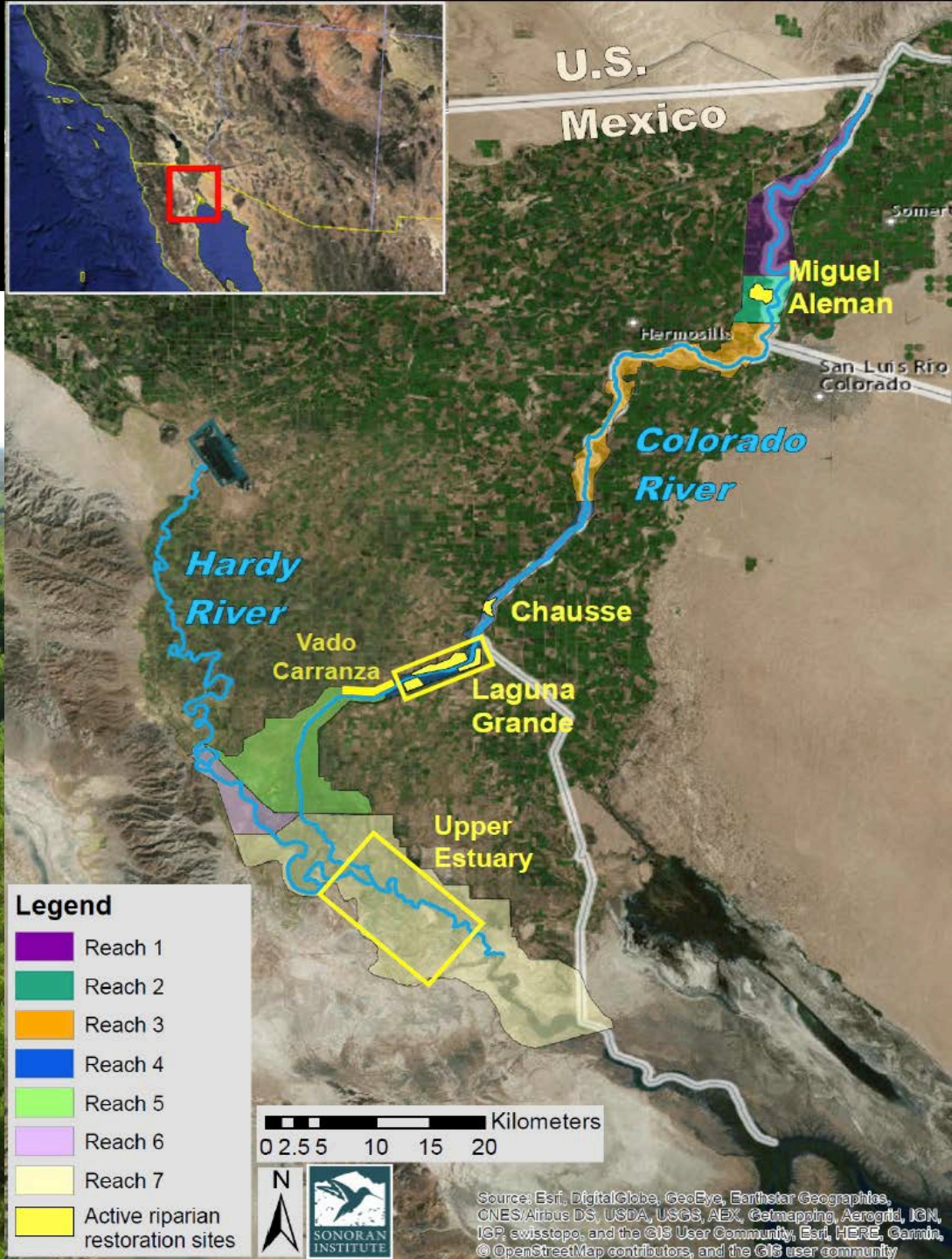


Francisco Zamora,
with support from
Lighthawk

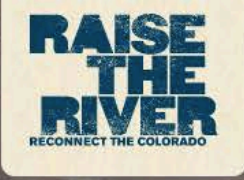
Minute 319 successes



- 1214 acres (486 ha) restored
- Water delivery commitments met
- 3 monitoring reports published
- Evidence that birds are returning
- >100 Jobs created
- Substantial community engagement (1000's/year)



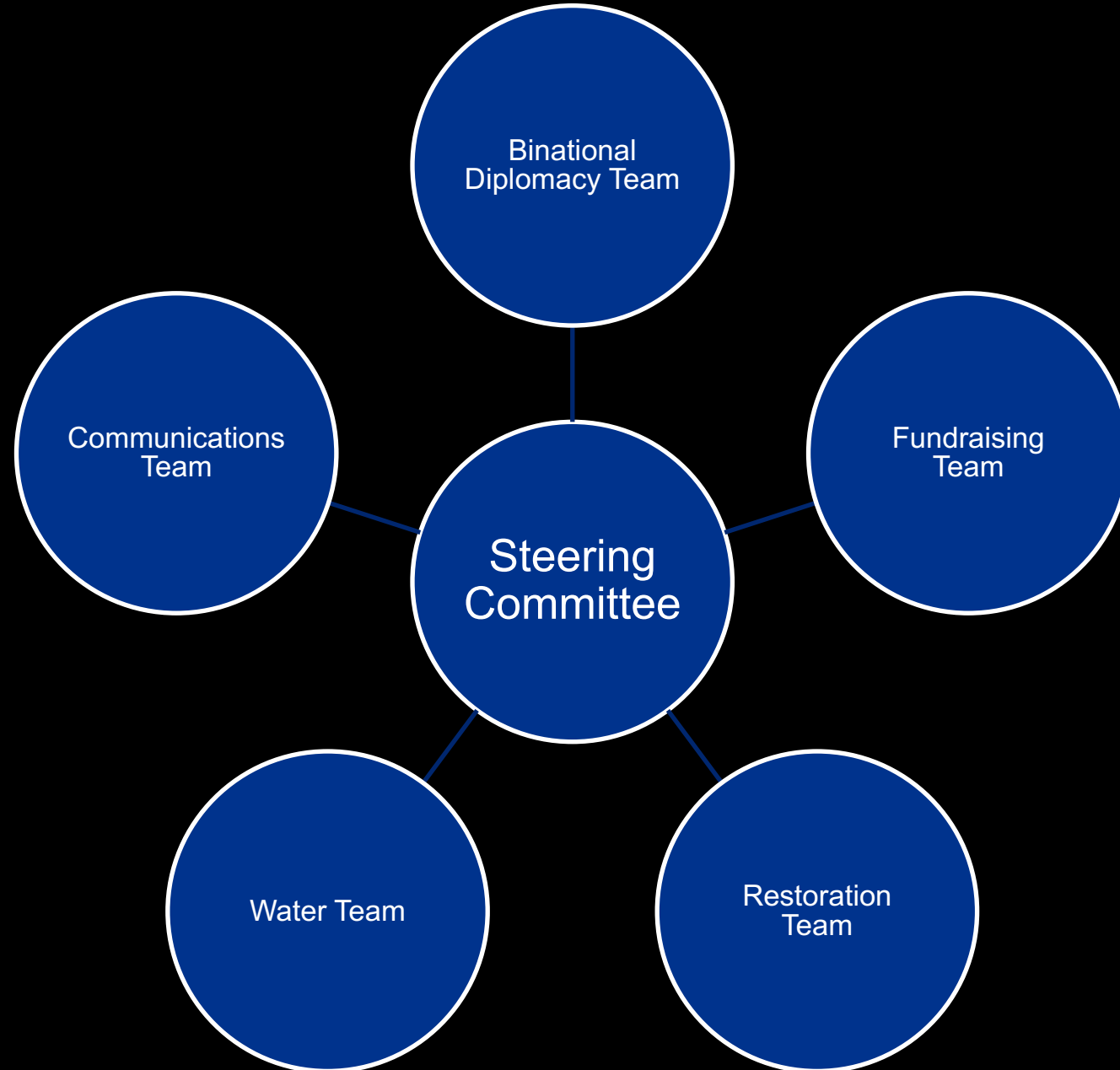




HELP US BREATHE LIFE BACK INTO THE DELTA



Raise the River Organization





Environmental Commitments in Minute 323 (2018 – 2026)

- 210,000 acre-feet water for the environment (and possible to secure more)
- \$9M for restoration
- \$9M for science
- Mexico, United States, and NGOs share commitments equally

