



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States and Mexico**

For immediate release  
March 9, 2011

### **MEXICAN GOVERNOR TO PARTICIPATE IN BINATIONAL BORDER SANITATION AND WATER QUALITY SUMMIT IN SAN ANTONIO**

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC), will convene high-ranking government officials and other experts from both countries at the Binational Border Sanitation and Water Quality Summit on March 16-18 in San Antonio, Texas. The Summit is being convened in furtherance of Article 3 of the 1944 Water Treaty, which directs the Commission to give preferential attention to the solution of border sanitation problems. The Commission is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries, including international agreements related to sewage treatment and water quality. Joining U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina and Mexican Commissioner Roberto Salmon as featured speakers at the Summit are:

- Jose Guadalupe Osuna Millan, Governor of the State of Baja California
- U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar (TX)
- Mexican Congressman Oscar Lara (Sinaloa), President of the Hydraulic Resources Commission in the Mexican Congress
- Matthew Rooney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of State
- Julian Ventura, Undersecretary for North America in Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Relations (SRE)
- Al Armendariz, Regional Administrator, Region 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The theme of the Summit is “Today’s Challenges, Tomorrow’s Opportunities.” The Summit goals are:

- To understand and evaluate the current sanitation conditions along the U.S.-Mexico border in order to identify and promote actions that would allow for improvements and expansion of service coverage to all U.S. and Mexico border residents.
- To understand the existing sanitation infrastructure in U.S.-Mexico border cities in order to evaluate its performance and identify and promote actions to improve and expand service along the border.
- To understand and evaluate current efforts to address factors that impact water quality along the U.S.-Mexico border in order to provide residents with safe water.

During the Summit, some 200 participants will work to identify activities and funding to improve wastewater collection and treatment, share information about successes and failures, and develop a framework for binational efforts to improve water quality and sanitation conditions in border cities. The Summit will include expert panelists covering topics related to Sanitation, Technology, Water Quality, and Financing. Due to limited space, participation in the Summit is by invitation only.

In conjunction with the Summit, the Instituto Cultural de Mexico is hosting an exhibit, *Maps, Minutes, and Monuments: History of the Boundary Line, 1848-2011*, at its gallery at 600 Hemisfair Park, San Antonio, TX 78205 from March 17 through April 17. The exhibit focuses on the history of the International Boundary and Water Commission. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

For more information:

Sally Spener  
915-832-4175  
sally.spener@ibwc.gov