

Transboundary Water Management at Paso del Norte

by

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Water is a strategic resource for sustainability at the border lands between Mexico and the United States.

At the PdN region, GW is the main water resource along the Cd. Juarez, Chih.-El Paso, TX-Las Cruces, NM.

In the recent past, many efforts have been taken to address a Transboundary Water Management for the PdN region.

However, GW quantity and quality are still main issues to address in order to reach a holistic sustainable development of water resources for the region.

While regional development and urban expansion have aggressive ongoing agendas along the border region on both countries, there is a need of a transboundary plan for a binational groundwater management.

This item could help in achieving a common ground to prevent future disagreements and water conflicts at the PdN

While official efforts are on its way to reach the goal of intelligent use of these shared water resources, a thorough binational understanding on the system is needed in order to reach a proper **Transboundary Water Management**

We also need to understand and evaluate the impacts that climate change will have on the surface and groundwater resources of the region

Regional development and urban expansion have aggressive ongoing agendas on both countries, driving the increasing demand for the resource due to population growth and the expansion of urban infrastructure

In regards to groundwater, the trend of punctual aquifer depletion in this region is a known factor; hence, there is currently a need of a transboundary plan for a binational groundwater management

With business as usual, the trend of population will increase and urban expansion will keep growing and the need and demands for water resources will necessarily increase as well.

Since the efforts to develop plans for binational water management and improvements on water use efficiencies are timidly considered to be in place by the water agencies of both national, these water resources will be exposed to a continuous depletion.

The main reservoir of groundwater for the area, is geospatially shared by the two nations while water management policies are different and the criteria for pumping water on this region has not yet been coordinated by both countries

Case studies developed by ongoing research agendas taken by water agencies, scholars and experts on water resources at the PdN region have evaluated the different transboundary scenarios in regards to availability of groundwater proposing sustainable strategies for an intelligent use of water resources

Nonetheless, one of the major tasks in regards to transboundary groundwater resources at the PdN is the physical characterization of aquifer extension for the region

In the near future, progress towards sustainability for GW resources will be related to the amount of investment made on the binational research agenda by both countries

Binational policy should be moved towards a holistic approach to GW management; however, this will require the understanding and clear concurrence by the two nations in regards to long term monitoring and exchange of data

Mexico, needs to define its strategic plan in regards to sustainable management on groundwater resources. Furthermore, a scientific knowledge of the aquifer formations is still in the course of its development; so a Binational Groundwater Treaty is a long term possibility