Hard Times on the Colorado River: Drought, Growth and the Future of the Compact (Summer Conference, June 8-10)

6-9-2005

SLIDES: So What if It’s Called “All-American”

Malissa Hathaway McKeith
Bob Johnson

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SO WHAT IF ITS CALLED "ALL AMERICAN"

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University of Colorado Boulder
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Map of Imperial and Mexicali Valleys showing Old Alamo Canal and portion of AAC to be lined
Map showing wells in Mexicali Valley
Another map showing wells
View Looking North – Colorado River Approaching Imperial Dam

View Looking North - Colorado River Approaching Imperial Dam and entering All American Canal Desilting Works - Lower Left
Drop 5 on All American Canal
Imperial Valley Irrigated Farmland Looking South

Imperial Valley Irrigated Farmland Looking south toward Mexico and Mount Signal
All American Canal on Pilot Knob Mesa looking southeast (Section to be lined) with Pilot Knob in background
## Mexicali and California at the Border

### Mexicali
- Second-largest Maquiladora sector in Mexico
- Agricultural Richness
  - "Breadbasket of Mexico"
  - Wheat, Cotton, Alfalfa, Green Onions, Lettuce
  - 17% of rural labor force
- University Town
- Capital of Baja California
- City accounts for 30.5% of Baja’s Gross State Product
- Fully developed commercial sector
- Almost 1 million residents

### Imperial County
- Poorest county in California
  - 145,000 residents
    (Calexico: 36,000 residents)
- Highest unemployment in California
- Retail is one of Imperial County’s 3 primary job sectors, and its biggest growth area
- Calexico and El Centro economy largely dependent on Mexicali day-trip consumers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAQUILADORA EN MEXICALI</th>
<th>CORPORATIVO AMERICANO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCURIDE INTERNATIONAL, S.A. DE C.V.</td>
<td>ACCURIDE INTERNATIONAL, INC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN METER DE MEXICO, S.A. DE C.V.</td>
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<td>AUTOMATIC SWITH, CO.</td>
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<td>ROBERTSHAW CONTROLS COMPANY</td>
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<td>S B POWER TOOL, CO.</td>
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<td>JENCO PRODUCTIONS, INC</td>
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<td>THOMSON INC.</td>
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THE PROPOSED NEW CANAL

- U.S. proposes a new parallel canal lined in concrete
- New American Canal will reduce seepage into groundwater by 70,000 afy
- Elimination of recharge has both supply and quality consequences for Mexicali Valley
THE 1994 EIS IS OBSOLETE

- immigration impacts

Immigration from Mexico: EIS admits "construction activity would make it more difficult for the Border Patrol to conduct surveillance and detect the presence of illegal aliens."

- growth inducement

EIS claims the preferred alternative "would not have any growth-inducing effect."
OBSELETE EIS (cont.)

- no discussion of socio economic impacts in Mexicali
- no discussion of cumulative impacts of socioeconomic impacts due to the QSA fallowing on either side of border
OBSELETE EIS (cont.)

- requires updating to address new endangered species (pearson milk vetch) and ESA compliance
- requires updating to address wetlands issues
- requires updating to address new designation of Imperial under Clean Air Act.
THE FAILED MINDSET BEHIND THE AAC EIS

- failure to address the overall physical watershed
- failure to address the overall regional economy
- failure to focus on alternatives beneficial to entire region
- failure to consider local interests due to institutional structure of negotiations between two countries.