

Session Five
Revitalizing Water Governance

**PROMISES UNDER
CONSTRUCTION:
THE EVOLVING PARADIGM
FOR WATER GOVERNANCE
AND THE CASE OF NORTHERN
MEXICO**



**Rosenberg Forum
VI
Zaragoza, Spain
2008**

**MARGARET WILDER
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA**



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Major Themes

New relationships & uneasy marriage

Mexico's water policy transition
(1992, 2004)

NW MEXICO: Analytical construct

Efficiency

Decentralized management

Participation

Equity and sustainability

CONCLUSIONS



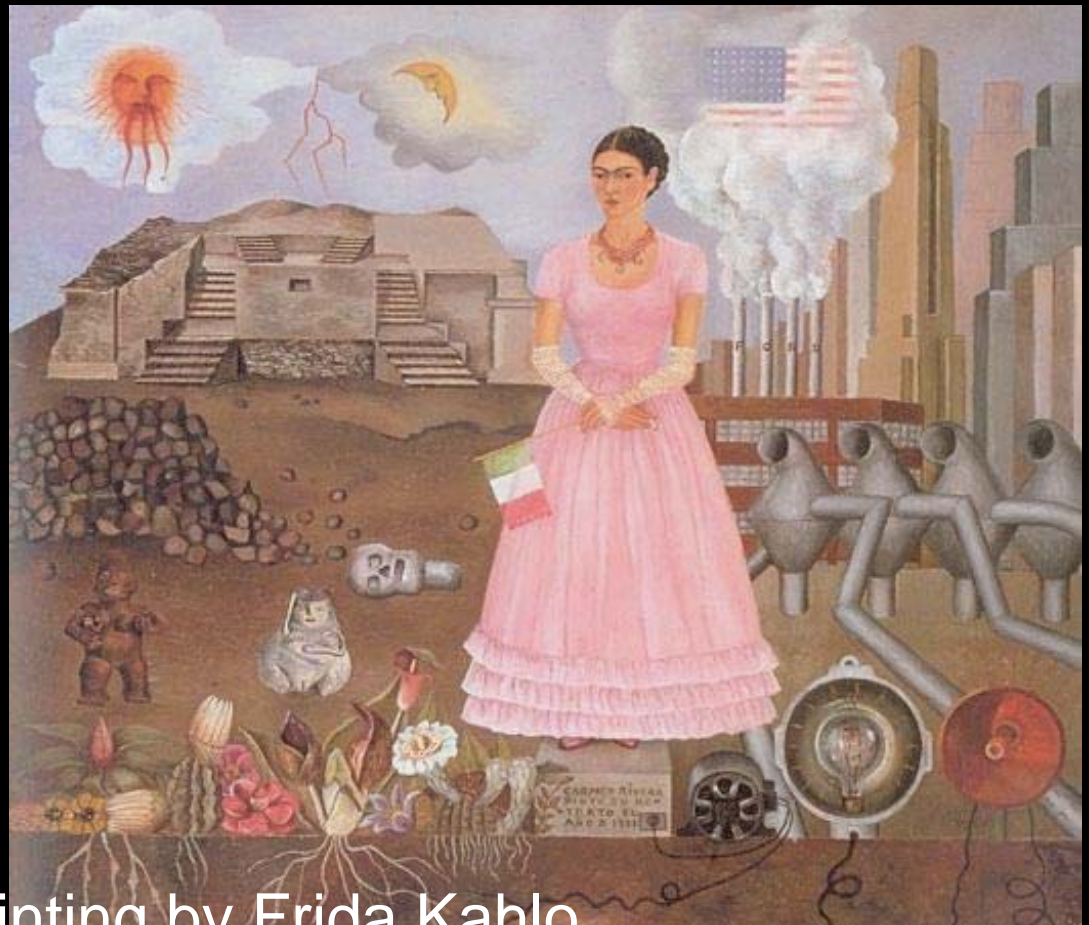
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Painting by Frida Kahlo

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Mexico's Water Policy Transition

New Law 1992, 2004

National Water Commission

Nueva Cultura de Agua

Rights registry (REPDA)

Water markets

Municipalization (urban)

Irrigation transfer (rural/agric)

Privatization

Consejos de cuenca

Full-cost recovery pricing

FREE TRADE (12 in 12 years)



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WHY SONORA?

- Vulnerability
- Growth
- Industrialization
- Most irrigated
- Most drought prone
- Export agriculture
- Coastal development



Rio Yaqui irrigation canal



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EFFICIENCY

URBAN:

**Uneven services
Privatization
Deconcentration
Lack of Resources**

**IRRIGATION:
System changes**



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Sonora cattle die-off 2004

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DECENTRALIZED MANAGEMENT



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URBAN:

**Uncertainty and complexity
Political party 'alternancia'
Deconcentration
Lack of resources**

IRRIGATION:

**Transference successful
Gains in political equity**

RIVER BASIN COUNCILS:

Not representative

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PARTICIPATION

Formal participation, but limited substantive change

URBAN:

Municipal advisory councils

IRRIGATION:

Hydraulic committees & WUA's

RIVER BASIN COUNCILS:

Membership
Jurisdiction
Local realities



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EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

URBAN:

Uneven services
Insufficient resources

IRRIGATION:

Small farmer vulnerability
Water, pumping costs
More wells

RIVER BASIN COUNCILS:

Heavy gov't, limited citizens
Disenfranchised groups
Environment not represented



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Mexico D.F. 2006

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CONCLUSIONS

Promises under construction

Market—Decentralization relationship

Politics of water

Temporal and spatial challenges

New relationships



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