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Mexico Implements Unified Digital Portal for Water Concessions

On March 26, 2025, the Agreement establishing the **Unified Digital Portal** for Water Procedures and actions to simplify the procedures CONAGUA-01-003-A Concession/assignment of national surface waters and CONAGUA-01-004-A Concession/assignment of national groundwater, which are carried out before the National Water Commission (“Agreement”), was published in the Official Federal Gazette (“OFG”).

I. Background

Previously, the aforementioned procedures were conducted through the digital platform Buzón del Agua (also known as CONAGUA Digital). However, following the publication of the “*National Agreement for the Human Right to Water and Sustainability*” in the OFG on December 19, 2024, immediate strategies have been promoted to simplify the concession, assignment, and permit procedures contemplated in the National Water Law. Among these measures, the creation of the Unified Digital Portal for Water Procedures stands out, aiming to optimize the process and facilitate access to services related to water resource management.

In compliance with the above, on February 6, 2025, the “*Guidelines for the implementation and operation of Llave MX*” were published in the OFG. These guidelines aim to regulate the implementation of the digital authentication mechanism “Llave MX” and its verification factors, allowing both individuals and legal entities to manage procedures, services, and social programs through the digital channels enabled by the agencies, decentralized bodies, and entities of the Federal Public Administration.

In this context, with the objective of implementing actions that improve service to applicants, as well as reducing response times and requirements, the Unified Digital Portal for Water Procedures was established as an electronic procedures system. Through this medium, the National Water Commission (“CONAGUA”) receives, deals with, and resolves the procedures within its competence.

II. Scope of the Agreement

As of today, the only procedures that will be handled by this Unified Digital Portal are: i) CONAGUA-01-003-A Concession/assignment of national surface waters; and ii) CONAGUA-01-004-A Concession/assignment of national groundwater.

The Agreement not only precisely establishes the requirements that must be met for these two procedures but also details the notification procedure through the Electronic Window. Although it is an electronic procedure, the Agreement contemplates the possibility for users to visit any of the Integrated Service Centers of CONAGUA, where they can receive guidance and in-person assistance for the submission of these procedures.

Finally, it is important to highlight that the response time stipulated in the Agreement is 30 business days, counted from the date of submission of the procedure, provided that the file is duly completed.

The Agreement will come into effect five business days after its publication in the OFG, marking the beginning of a transition in the management of procedures related to the concession of surface and groundwater. During this transition period, these procedures will be temporarily suspended, allowing requests already in process before the issuance of the Agreement to be resolved according to the regulations in force at the time of their submission. Additionally, the Agreement repeals the previous provisions applicable to these procedures, which were established in the document published on October 1, 2018.¹

III. Future Considerations

Although, for the moment, the Buzón del Agua and the Unified Digital Portal platforms must coexist, the spirit of this Agreement is to eventually transfer all procedures to the Unified Digital Portal. This will allow for optimized response times and provide clarity to concessionaires regarding the necessary requirements for each procedure before CONAGUA.

The Environmental Team at **Pérez-Llorca Mexico** is at your disposal to provide support and advice you may require in this adaptation process.

¹ See: https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5539572&fecha=01/10/2018#gsc.tab=0

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