



Joe A. Barrera III, Executive Director

Honorable Filemon Vela
437 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
April 9, 2013

Dear Representative Vela,

Congressman, I would like to thank you for your continued efforts to get Mexico to comply with the 1944 Treaty. IBWC's announcement that Mexico has released water, less than 7500 acre feet, is an insult to Texas water users. IBWC should be ashamed to acknowledge this pittance not proud to have made the announcement of Mexico's paltry release. The 7500 acre foot release is less than a 3-day supply of water IF all the water actually makes it to Falcon Lake. This release appears to be a well-timed stall to keep water issues out of the upcoming talks between Presidents Obama and Nieto and is no more than the State Department's attempt to shield President Obama from the water issue in South Texas. Any credible release should have been in the neighborhood of at least 350,000 acre feet.

Mexican officials have used the term extraordinary drought to avoid water release obligations; however, according to accepted monitoring authorities, Mexico has not been in a drought event since May, 2012. While I guess any water is good and proves that Mexico may be listening, this release should be viewed as way too little and in no way a reassuring move on Mexico's part.

Presidents Obama and Nieto meet this month. We feel that water should be added to the agenda when they meet; and the extreme urgency of the plight of South Texas be stressed, a situation not even partially relieved by a 3-day water release.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe A. Barrera III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Barrera III