



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

October 15, 2012

Mr. Carlos Rubinstein
Commissioner
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
MC 100, PO Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Commissioners' Offices

Dear Commissioner Rubinstein:

It was a pleasure meeting with you back on September 13 in El Paso when we discussed a range of Rio Grande issues that impact the United States and Mexico all along the Texas border. The primary topic at the binational meeting was the ongoing drought and how it is negatively impacting both of our countries. Our combined experience in dealing with all aspects involved with droughts will aid us in managing the current situation fairly. Your comment to the group that we can and will deal with this current water deficit crisis with those present at the meeting, has been repeated to me several times and was very encouraging to participants on both sides of the border.

As noted at both our domestic pre-meeting and the binational meeting, we are studying how Mexico manages it's water and how the water reservoir releases reflect the ongoing drought. The fact that we are now beginning to use similar software and modeling techniques is encouraging since it has proven to be successful in our negotiations involving the Colorado River.

At the domestic pre-meeting we briefly discussed your request that we investigate the national ownership of waters of the Rio Grande immediately south of Fort Quitman. As we told you earlier this summer and again at our September meeting, our review of the archives was delayed due to the renovation of the National Archives in Dallas. That renovation has been finished so we are rescheduling our trips to Dallas in order to resume our research. I cannot tell you at this point how long that research will take but we will keep you updated.

As agreed upon at our September meeting, we are having the next binational meeting on November 15, 2012 at the US Section Headquarters Office in El Paso. Among other items, we will discuss past water release practices to the Rio Grande during droughts and compare those practices to current water release practices. We will also ask Mexico to be as brief and specific as possible in order to optimize our time.

We look forward to our continued productive discussions on the important matters that face us all along the Rio Grande. We appreciate your participation and insights as we work with our Mexican colleagues on improving our planning.

Sincerely,

Edward Drusina, P.E.
Commissioner