

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

August 30, 2013

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

Dear Commissioner Rubinstein:

I join you in being very disappointed that Mexico postponed our August meeting to discuss Rio Grande water deliveries to the United States. Our office and the Department of State are again taking steps to help Mexico understand how important our meeting, now in September, is for our international water relations.

I share your interest in developing understandings not only for additional short-term water deliveries but for a Mexican commitment to treat the United States as a user as it develops its water-year operating plans for the rest of this five-year cycle and beyond.

Our joint interests in the border region are dependent on water and the detailed information you have provided us since this past November has helped us make it very clear how the United States is being damaged by the water deficit. Mexico must produce a comprehensive water management plan that includes full recognition of Mexico's intention to release water to honor the Treaty requirements.

As you know, at the public meeting of the USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum held August 14 in Mercedes, Texas, USIBWC Principal Engineer Carlos Peña shared the progress that has been made over the last two months, including a significant reduction in the deficit and the expectation that the deficit would stabilize for the second half of 2013 rather than grow as it had over the last two years. I believe we are still on track to achieve this.

We had hoped to carry even more good news to the Lower Rio Grande Valley water users in the first week of September but that message hopefully is just delayed. The State of Texas, through your personal involvement, has been a vigilant partner and together we will work to remedy the deficit.

Sincerely,

Edward Drusina, P.E.
Commissioner