



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

April 9, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

Without immediate and direct action from the White House and the U.S. Department of State, Texans along the Rio Grande will continue to suffer from a lack of available water due to Mexico's failure to adhere to the terms of the 1944 Water Treaty between our two countries.

Under the terms of the treaty, Mexico is to provide a minimum average of 350,000 acre-feet of water annually to the Rio Grande for use by the United States in cycles of five years. Mexico is currently in default by more than 400,000 acre-feet. To put things in perspective, the entire annual municipal water supply for the 1.5 million residents of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas is 275,000 acre-feet.

Currently, irrigation districts that distribute water from the Rio Grande to municipalities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley are sending notices to cities that they may soon run out of irrigation water used to deliver municipal water for more than 800,000 residents. This grim situation is being exacerbated by Mexico's refusal to make meaningful deliveries of Rio Grande water to the United States.

The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) is a federal agency responsible for overseeing and enforcing water allocations between the United States and Mexico on binational rivers. My office, along with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, has been working with IBWC, which takes foreign policy guidance from the State Department, on this issue since last fall. Unfortunately, the State of Texas is not receiving the support from your administration that is needed to obtain our water from Mexico.

The time to act is now. Without the federal government's intervention, some Texas communities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley could be facing critical water shortages within 60 days. I urge

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you and Secretary Kerry to immediately work with the government of Mexico to ensure that it lives up to the terms of the 1944 Water Treaty.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly to further discuss how we can ensure the quick delivery of the resources that are due to the citizens of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RICK PERRY". The letters are in a cursive, slightly slanted font. The "R" is large and loops back under the "I". The "P" is also large and loops back under the "E".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:jsp

cc: Texas Congressional Delegation