



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

April 1, 2024

Mr. Bobby Janecka
Commissioner
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Dear Commissioner Janecka:

I would like to personally thank you and your team for working with the IBWC in good faith during some long and arduous negotiations on a minute that would provide increased reliability and predictability to Rio Grande deliveries of water users. As you are aware, the USIBWC continues to advocate for United States stakeholders in our negotiation and coordination efforts with Mexico. USIBWC continues to push for three things with the Mexican Section: sign the Minute, immediately approve the Minute, and apply the tools to deliver water to the United States. We also continue to highlight with them the negative impacts to our South Texas communities related to the extremely low water deliveries to date and low water levels at international the reservoirs.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide the findings of the research that USIBWC staff conducted at the request of South Texas users on the basis of the 1944 Water Treaty. In our meeting on December 19, 2023, we shared the findings with you and your staff. These findings were later presented to U.S. water users in a meeting convened by USIBWC on February 8, 2024. I also presented these findings in the Region M meeting on February 21, 2024.

It is my understanding that TCEQ has had time to review the slides and had additional questions on the data sources used in the comparison tables on projected deliveries, projected consumptive uses, and performance in the decades after. I was glad to hear that our technical team quickly convened a meeting with you and other TCEQ staff on March 11, 2024, where many of these questions were answered. In addition, the USIBWC also shared the following:

- An email on March 12, 2024, with:
 - The source data used for calculating average U.S tributary deliveries after signing of the treaty via email on March 12, 2024.
 - A copy of an August 1, 1945, article containing the report given to the Mexican Senate by Engineer Adolfo Orive Alba on the 1944 Water Treaty, which was translated and entered into the U.S. Senate record in 1945.
- An email on March 14, 2024, with:
 - A plot produced by the U.S. Section showing the U.S. Tributary deliveries.
 - A link to the U.S. Foreign Relations Committee testimony (Parts 1-5) documenting discussions that occurred related to the 1944 Water Treaty.

- A link to the U.S. historical tributary data for the complete period of record.

As part of our duties related to ownership of water, the USIBWC measures inflows from 6 tributaries in the U.S. and 6 tributaries in Mexico immediately along the Rio Grande. Per the meeting on March 11, TCEQ was going to review the data and information provided. I am requesting a tentative date in which this review will be completed, and findings shared with USIBWC.

As discussed above, USIBWC continues to strongly advocate for water deliveries from Mexico and has elevated the issue with Department State and the Texas Congressional delegations since December, when Mexico did not sign the minute as expected. Even so, U.S. users have requested information regarding inflows to the Rio Grande from all sources. It is my belief that they will benefit from understanding the changing conditions along the entire Rio Grande Basin in both Mexico and the United States. It will provide them tools for planning and to advocate domestically for the needed resources.

I remain committed to our shared advocacy on behalf of Texas water users and again take this opportunity to thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely

MARIAELENA
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Dr. Maria Elena Giner, P.E.
Commissioner