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EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 4, 2024

Kelly Keel  
Executive Director  
TCEQ  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

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Water Availability Division

RE: Rio Grande Watermaster Advisory Committee

Dear Ms. Keel:

Attached please find a recently executed resolution by the Rio Grande Watermaster Advisory Committee. We pray something will be resolved quickly. Our area has already lost the only sugar mill in the State of Texas due to the lack of water to sustain sugar cane. Our citrus industry is suffering due to the lack of water. Our region is on its third year of water restrictions for irrigation. Four irrigation districts have ceased delivering irrigation water to their patrons. Three irrigation districts have sent 60 day letters to their municipal water suppliers advising them that they may soon find it difficult to deliver the raw water needed for municipal treatment. Something needs to be done quickly.

We appreciate any effort within your authority to get Mexico to deliver water to the United States on the Rio Grande in accordance with the provisions set forth in the 1944 Treaty.

Sincerely,



Sonny Hinojosa, Chair  
Rio Grande Watermaster Advisory Committee

# RESOLUTION

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Water Availability Division

**WHEREAS**, the Rio Grande Watermaster Advisory Committee (WAC) is a committee established by the executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and consists of water rights holders representing geographic areas from Fort Quitman, Texas, to the Gulf of Mexico, and representing water districts, municipal suppliers, irrigators, and industrial users; and,

**WHEREAS**, the WAC may make recommendations to the executive director regarding activities of benefit to the holders of water rights in the administration and distribution of water to holders of water rights in the Rio Grande Watermaster jurisdiction; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Rio Grande flows are greatly dependent on inflows from Mexican tributaries that flow into the Rio Grande above Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs; and,

**WHEREAS**, the 1944 Treaty between the United States and Mexico allots to the United States one-third of the tributary inflow from six-named tributaries that flow into the Rio Grande above the international reservoirs and this one-third shall not be less than 350,000 acre feet as an annual average over a cycle of five consecutive years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the only exception to the annual delivery of this water is if Mexico is experiencing extraordinary drought or has experienced serious accident to the hydraulic systems on the six-named tributaries; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mexico accumulated over 2.96 million acre feet of water in the reservoirs on the six-named tributaries since August 2022, and is an indication that Mexico is not in an extraordinary drought and there have been no reports of any accidents to their hydraulic systems; and,

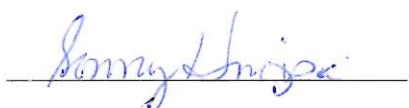
**WHEREAS**, the current five-year Treaty Delivery Cycle commenced October 25, 2020, and Mexico is behind in their deliveries to the United States by over 800,000 acre feet of water; and,

**WHEREAS**, the United States ownership of water in the Amistad/Falcon Reservoir System is approximately 22% of its conservation capacity; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mexico has sufficient water in storage in the tributaries that the United States is entitled to receive water from and could deliver this water as called for by the 1944 Treaty.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Rio Grande Watermaster Advisory Committee strongly recommends the Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to urge Mexico to comply with the terms of the 1944 Treaty and deliver the water due to the United States.

**Adopted and approved by the Rio Grande Watermaster Advisory Committee on this the 28th day of March, 2024.**



Sonny Hinojosa, Chair



Troy Allen, Secretary