

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
UNITED STATES SECTION

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Gallego  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ruben Hinojosa  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Filemon Vela  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Cuellar, Gallego, Hinojosa and Vela:

In follow up to my letter of March 8, 2013 discussing drought conditions in the Rio Grande basin in Texas and the requirement under the 1944 Water Treaty for Mexico to deliver water to the United States, I am pleased to provide this update.

This past week, in response to the request of the International Boundary and Water Commission to increase deliveries from Mexican tributaries, the Mexican Government initiated releases from a reservoir on the San Rodrigo River. Once this water arrives in the Rio Grande, in accordance with the 1944 Water Treaty, one-third of the volume will be allotted to the United States. The Mexican Government has also agreed to allow the United States to utilize excess Mexican water arriving in the Rio Grande from pre-identified Mexican tributaries, an arrangement that should increase deliveries to the United States during periods of precipitation. Although we are pleased with these actions, more is needed to address the existing water deficit and the immediate water needs of South Texas.

The USIBWC has also made a number of other specific proposals to the Mexican Section of the Commission to provide for immediate water deliveries to the United States in order to avoid critical water shortages in South Texas by early summer. We have also proposed strategies to increase deliveries during the remainder of the five-year water delivery cycle.

Unfortunately, the Government of Mexico's response to our additional requests and proposals has been slower than expected. Nonetheless, I and my staff continue to push at every opportunity for additional immediate actions by Mexico. I also expect increased engagement from U.S. Government officials at all levels to support the U.S. Section's efforts to address the water deficit. Certainly, the advocacy of my fellow Texans is very welcome.

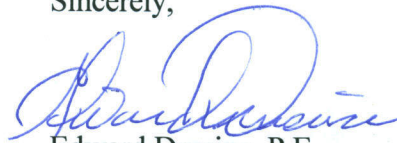
I would also like to take this opportunity to make clear the position of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission regarding the proposed construction of

new dams in the Conchos River Basin in Mexico. I have been and remain very concerned that the dams will have a significant impact on the water run-off to the Rio Grande and that the dams will make it more difficult for Mexico to fulfill the international water delivery obligations that are clearly expressed in the 1944 Water Treaty. While I appreciate that Mexico has provided us with details of the location and capacity of the new dams, we still do not have any specific commitment on how water deliveries to the United States will not be impacted by the construction of those dams and any existing or new allocations that may be extended.

I have also urged the Mexican Government to provide information on at least an annual basis about how Mexico's water management plan includes the Treaty-mandated United States interests. Just as the International Boundary and Water Commission has facilitated open communication with Mexico regarding U.S. water management practices that impact Mexico along the Colorado River and the upper Rio Grande, I have urged a reciprocal level of communication regarding Mexico's planning and management as it impacts U.S. treaty rights.

Again, thank you for your interest in treaty compliance. I share your concern about the impact of the water deficit on South Texas and I continue to make this matter a top priority of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission.

Sincerely,



Edward Drusina, P.E.  
Commissioner