



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
UNITED STATES SECTION

August 10, 2022

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

Dear Commissioner Janecka:

Thank you for your letter of July 27, 2022. I share your concerns about the shortfall in Mexico's Rio Grande water deliveries to the United States during the first two years of the current 5-year water delivery cycle. I agree that we should schedule a meeting of the Rio Grande Policy Work Group in the coming weeks to explore opportunities to increase water deliveries to the United States in the short term, despite the drought experienced by both countries. My staff will work to identify a date for this meeting.

I also appreciate you communicating information about a potential negative allocation to U.S. users and the impacts to agricultural and municipal users in Texas. I share your concerns on difficulties users are facing due to the drought and shortfall in water deliveries from Mexico. Therefore, I convened the July 27 stakeholder meeting in Weslaco, Texas so my federal partners could provide information about their agency programs and resources to support the affected communities and farms. Even so I recognize more needs to be done.


My plan is to continue a three-pronged approach to develop solutions to the water supply challenges through stakeholder involvement, science, and policy. I believe the Minute 325 Hydrology Work Group is making good progress on the model that will enable them to begin assessing various water delivery scenarios in the near future, including a scenario where Mexico could allot greater than a one-third share of its tributary flows to the United States.

For the policy aspect of this three-pronged approach, I am envisioning our white paper will identify conservation opportunities, operational efficiencies, and new sources of water that will assist in moving forward a strategy that will lead to more predictability in Mexico's deliveries. Our contractor is on board and has already interviewed many stakeholders as we continue to analyze opportunities for projects to improve water resources management to the benefit of both countries. During the May 2022 meeting in Austin of the Rio Grande Policy Work Group, Commissioner Reséndez noted the importance of treaty compliance. They further described opportunities that could be implemented in 2022 and 2023 that would allow them to reduce releases to Mexico from Falcon Dam. They have agreed to provide us a list of these projects to be included in the white paper. We anticipate that this document will be concluded by November. We anticipate having a draft a Minute by Spring 2023 to propose to Mexico that includes some of the recommendations.

Thank you again for your letter. I will continue to advocate for the interests of Texas as we work with Mexico to ensure treaty compliance. I look forward to scheduling a binational Rio Grande Policy Work Group meeting in the near future.

Sincerely,

**MARIAELENA  
GINER**

 Digitally signed by MARIAELENA  
GINER  
Date: 2022.08.10 11:02:16 -06'00'

Dr. Maria Elena Giner, P.E.  
Commissioner