

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

September 10, 2013

The Honorable E. Anthony Wayne
United States Ambassador to Mexico
Paseo de la Reforma 305
Colonia Cuauhtémoc
06500 México, D.F.

Dear Ambassador Wayne:

We write to stress the importance of the upcoming September 11 meeting to discuss Mexico's compliance with water deliveries on the Rio Grande under the 1944 Treaty. The September meeting is particularly important given that the August 29 meeting in El Paso was cancelled. We do appreciate the support we received from the International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section, leading up to and at the July 29 meeting in Mexico City. With IBWC's help, we have reduced Mexico's water deficit by approximately 100,000 acre-feet.

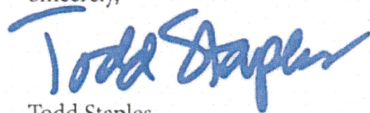
However, we cannot emphasize enough to you how critical it is for Texas stakeholders to obtain the water we are entitled from Mexico. The situation is grave: several irrigation districts in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas have exhausted their irrigation water reserves, and other districts are in danger of exhausting their irrigation supplies.

These are not solely consequences of the ongoing drought – they are exacerbated by Mexico's noncompliance. Because these same irrigation districts deliver water to cities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley for municipal use, their low irrigation supplies mean that municipal users — up to 800,000 — are at risk of having to secure additional water supplies to cover unexpected and unnecessary conveyance losses. In addition, the loss of irrigation water to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas is estimated to cost nearly 5,000 jobs and \$400 million in agricultural industry losses, according to estimates by Texas A&M Agrilife Extension. As well, due to the lack of sustainable deliveries from Mexico, the sugar cane industry in the Lower Rio Grande Valley is in peril.

Since Mexico makes Rio Grande water allocations in October, Mexico must present a plan at the September 11 meeting. The plan must state how Mexico will annually deliver water to the United States on the Rio Grande and treat the United States as a user — just as we treat Mexico as a user on the Colorado River through the 1944 Water Treaty. Without such plan, our irrigation users have no dependable water supply. The United States has never defaulted on the annual Colorado River deliveries of 1.5 million acre-feet. We must demand reciprocal treatment and compliance from Mexico under the 1944 Water Treaty.

We appreciate your efforts and direct involvement on this critical issue. We ask you impress upon appropriate Mexican authorities the critical nature and high expectations for the upcoming meeting, and the need for substantive commitment by Mexico to address water deliveries for the rest of the current treaty cycle and assure that deliveries are fully compliant with the 1944 Treaty while also addressing the current deficit.

Sincerely,



Todd Staples
Commissioner
Texas Department of Agriculture



Carlos Rubinstein
Chairman
Texas Water Development Board

cc: The Honorable John Cornyn
The Honorable Ted Cruz
Border Congressional Delegation
Ms. Roberta Jacobson, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs
Mr. Edward Drusina, Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission



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