



April 15, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We know you are aware of the devastation being inflicted on the Rio Grande Valley by a combination of a local drought and the lack of a good faith effort by Mexico to comply with the 1944 water treaty with Mexico. As an expression of the seriousness of the situation for citrus growers, the membership of Texas Citrus Mutual adopted the attached resolution earlier this month.

Meteorologists expect the dry weather pattern to continue for the next few months and therefore the only hope for immediate relief for farmers and municipalities in the Rio Grande Valley will be if Mexico takes specific steps to systematically set aside water now so they will be able to make a good faith effort to comply with the treaty. So far in the current five year cycle it is obvious that Mexico's only treaty compliance plan is to put all their hope in a weather event such as a hurricane that would produce extremely large amounts of runoff in a short amount of time.

We realize there are no easy answers to force Mexico to make planned deliveries of water to the U.S. Yes, we understand it is a difficult issue and we know that members of Congress from our area and several state officials from Texas are actively pushing for a solution to the issue. However, in spite of a lot of discussion on the issue, we just do not have the sense that this crisis situation is being adequately addressed at the highest levels of the State Department and the Office of the President of the United States. We know more is going on than we are in a position to know about, but is it enough?

To date this has clearly already been one of the worst droughts in the history of South Texas, but it is not hype to predict the future situation is likely to be one of the worst catastrophes ever faced by the farmers and municipalities in the Rio Grande Valley.

What are our specific requests?

1. We urge the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, the United States Department of State and the President of the United States to elevate the discussions with Mexico to the highest level of our respective governments.
2. We urge the federal government to bring the State of Texas into the discussions where appropriate. Why should the state be more involved? While the federal Government has the primary responsibility to enforce the treaty, the state has the responsibility to make drought contingency plans and to allocate water to the stakeholders, the farmers and cities, and therefore the state of Texas has a better understanding of the needs of the stakeholders.

What if Mexico does not come through with some water deliveries? Half of all the irrigation districts and all of the districts with the heaviest concentration of irrigated acreage will be out of irrigation water by mid-summer. And if the districts do not have irrigation water there will be a huge challenge for the districts to deliver water to the cities. This issue is generally referred as the push water issue.

As a representative of citrus, vegetable and other farmers in the Rio Grande Valley, our organization stands ready to meet with anyone willing to discuss how this issue is being and can be addressed. Please let us know if there is any way we may be of assistance in this issue impacting the very lives and livelihood of the people of the Rio Grande Valley.

Sincerely,



Ray Prewett

RESOLUTION URGING MEXICO TO BEGIN COMPLIANCE WITH 1944 WATER TREATY WITH U.S.

WHEREAS, the 1944 Treaty between the United States and Mexico provides that the United States is entitled to one-third (1/3) of the flow reaching the main channel of the Rio Grande from the Conchos, San Diego, San Rodrigo, Escondido and Salado Rivers and the Las Vacas Arroyo, provided that this third shall not be less, as an average amount in cycles of five consecutive years, than 350,000 acre-feet (431,721,000) cubic meters) annually; and,

WHEREAS, Texas is the sole beneficiary of the United States' one-third (1/3) portion of such flow in the Rio Grande; and,

WHEREAS, the 1944 Treaty further states that any deficits during a five (5) year cycle caused by "extraordinary drought" which is a year in a five (5) year cycle in which there are insufficient surface water runoff in the Rio Grande Basin in Mexico to provide for the required Treaty flows to the Rio Grande or a serious accident to the hydraulic systems on the measured Mexican tributaries must be made up within the five (5) year period/cycle; and,

WHEREAS, during the current five (5) year cycle which began on October 25, 2010 and will end on October 25, 2015, Mexico is in excess of 400,000 acre-feet behind in deliveries of the United States share of water to the Rio Grande; and,

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Watermaster has reported that our water right holders have 60% less water starting off in 2013 as compared to this time last year, and this situation is due in part to the lingering drought conditions in Texas and to the continued lack of inflows from Mexico during this five (5) year cycle; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Chihuahua, Mexico has plans in place to undertake infrastructure projects which include the construction of at least fifteen (15) storage reservoirs of which seven (7) to nine (9) could potentially reduce the inflows into the Rio Grande and our reservoir system; and,

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M, Texas Water Development Board) has determined that water requirements will exceed supply for the next 30 and 50 year planning horizons in the Region on the Rio Grande dependent upon the Treaty water from Mexico; and,

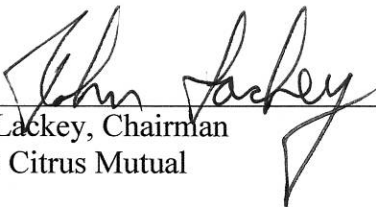
WHEREAS, the Lower Rio Grande Valley in South Texas below the Amistad Dam is in a water shortage for the irrigation of over 500,000 acres and is headed toward a serious water shortage for municipalities with a population in excess of 1.25 million; and,

WHEREAS, the United States gives priority to its obligations under the 1944 Treaty to assure required flows of the Colorado River in the Colorado River Watershed in the western United States reach Mexico and takes actions to ensure that Mexico receives required flows of water from the Colorado River Watershed in the United States to which it is entitled under the Treaty; and,

WHEREAS, over the past few years, additional concerns have been expressed to the International Boundary and Water Commission regarding, as examples, the improper accounting of water spilling at Ft. Quitman, Texas, said water belonging 100% to the United States; as well as the yet to be credited 78,000 acre-feet of Texas water that had to be used to mitigate increased salinity in the lower Rio Grande due to poor operations of the Morillo Drain; and,

WHEREAS, in contrast to actions taken by the United States in the form of emergency deliveries of water and additional storage agreements that have benefitted Mexico as it relates to binational sharing of water, Mexico has yet to reciprocate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Texas Citrus Mutual members in an official membership meeting on April 4, 2013 hereby request the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, the United States Department of State, and the President of the United States to pursue through appropriate Minute Orders and formal agreements whereby Mexico (1) in the short term agrees to make up current five (5) year cycle annual deficits, restore to the United States 78,000 acre-feet used to mitigate salinity in the lower Rio Grande and institute correct accounting of water at Fort Quitman, Texas, as 100% United States water and (2) in the long term that Mexico formalizes a compliance program under the 1944 Treaty to annually set aside water in sufficient amounts, as a priority allocation to the United States from the named tributaries in Mexico to ensure Mexico's full compliance with the 1944 Treaty. Passed and executed this 4th day of April, 2013.



John Lackey, Chairman
Texas Citrus Mutual