

RESOLUTION

“RIO GRANDE RIVER FLOOD CONTROL SYSTEM REHABILITATION”

WHEREAS, Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) is the Regional Water Authority Serving the Counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Starr, Zapata and Webb; and

WHEREAS, the RGRWA supports the priority regional need for adequate drainage and flood control system; and

WHEREAS, studies by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (U.S. IBWC) indicate that the Rio Grande Valley levees are deficient in height, and are in need of structural reinforcement; and

WHEREAS, the geographic location of this Region could easily be affected by a Katrina-like hurricane flooding event; and

WHEREAS, without necessary improvements as recommended by the U.S. IBWC, the levee system could be overtopped or fail structurally at various locations, leaving thousands homeless and creating extensive property and environmental damage to this Region; and

WHEREAS, the IBWC has stated that it has the need and capacity to contract up to \$10 million in Rio Grande Valley construction projects each year; and

WHEREAS, in the 2006 State Department Appropriations Bill, Congress approved the \$5.3 million that the President requested for IBWC construction projects, including \$2.2 million for the Rio Grande Valley; and

WHEREAS, the \$2.2 million is less than a quarter of the \$10 million the IBWC needs to fund the Rio Grande River Flood Control System Rehabilitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the RGRWA that future supplemental appropriations requests (2006) from the President in support of Hurricane Katrina relief include an additional \$7.8 million needed for the Rio Grande Valley's levees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RGRWA fully supports that a minimum of \$10 million for levee construction and rehabilitation for the Rio Grande River Flood Control System Rehabilitation be included in the 2007 State Department Budget and subsequent annual budgets until these needed improvements are completed.

ADOPTED THIS 17th day of January 2006 by the RGRWA.

President