

RESOLUTION

2013 – 01

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 Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRPG) (Region M) 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 17th day of April, 2013.



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