



# OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE

## County of Hidalgo

RICHARD F. CORTEZ  
County Judge

April 10, 2024

The Honorable Jon Niermann Chairman  
C/O Kim Nygren, Deputy Director Water Availability Division  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Chairman Niermann:

I would like to begin by extending my sincerest gratitude to you and your staff at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for your efforts on behalf of Texas water.

As you are aware, I am deeply concerned about water availability for my community and Mexico's continued non-adherence to the terms of the 1944 Water Treaty. I have tasked my staff with developing a comprehensive plan of action with water suppliers in our community. In order to appropriately chart our course of action, we must base our decisions on the best available information. I am aware that TCEQ has access to many historical datasets regarding inflows to the mainstem of the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman.

I would like to request that you share any and all available data associated with the items below:

- 1.) All records of inflows to the mainstem of the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman from Mexican tributaries.
- 2.) Any opinion you or your agency may have formed as to inflow trends to the mainstem of the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman from Mexican tributaries, and any opinion as to the cause of such trend.
- 3.) All records of inflows to the mainstem of the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman from United States tributaries.
- 4.) Any opinion you or your agency may have formed as to inflow trends to the mainstem of the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman from United States tributaries, and any opinion as to the cause of such trend.

I look forward to your response, and our continued collaboration. If you have any questions or require any clarification please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Cortez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard F. Cortez  
County Judge  
Hidalgo County, Texas