

1-1 By: Hinojosa of Nueces, et al. S.C.R. No. 13
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 7, 2025; February 13, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Water, Agriculture and
1-4 Rural Affairs; March 10, 2025, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; March 10, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	Perry	X		
1-9	Hancock	X		
1-10	Birdwell	X		
1-11	Blanco	X		
1-12	Gutierrez	X		
1-13	Hinojosa of Nueces	X		
1-14	Johnson	X		
1-15	Kolkhorst	X		
1-16	Sparks	X		

1-17 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-18 WHEREAS, Mexico's failure to fulfill its water deliveries to
1-19 the United States according to the stipulations of a 1944 treaty
1-20 between the two countries significantly harms the interests of
1-21 Texas; and

1-22 WHEREAS, The Rio Grande is both an interstate and
1-23 international river arising in the mountains of Colorado and
1-24 flowing in a southerly direction through New Mexico, where it forms
1-25 the border between the United States and Mexico beginning near
1-26 El Paso; the river is a shared and vital resource providing
1-27 municipal water for millions of Texans and irrigation water for
1-28 hundreds of thousands of acres in Texas; and

1-29 WHEREAS, Below Fort Quitman, the waters of the Rio Grande are
1-30 apportioned to the United States and to Mexico per the terms of the
1-31 1944 Treaty, "Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana
1-32 Rivers and of the Rio Grande"; Article IV of the treaty requires
1-33 that inflows from certain named tributaries of the Rio Grande be
1-34 apportioned one-third to the United States and two-thirds to
1-35 Mexico; and

1-36 WHEREAS, The 1944 Treaty specifically requires that "this
1-37 third shall not be less, as an average amount in cycles of five
1-38 consecutive years, than 350,000 acre-feet (431,721,000 cubic
1-39 meters) annually"; Mexico is allowed to deliver less than this
1-40 annual average amount of water during a five-year cycle only in the
1-41 event of an extraordinary drought, and not all years in a delivery
1-42 cycle reflect extraordinary drought conditions; and

1-43 WHEREAS, Many municipal, industrial, and agricultural water
1-44 users in Texas rely almost exclusively on these waters from the Rio
1-45 Grande for their water supplies; it is thus critical to the state's
1-46 interests that, during years in which extraordinary drought is not
1-47 present, Mexico take all necessary measures to address accumulated
1-48 water delivery deficits; and

1-49 WHEREAS, Mexico has failed to comply with its obligations
1-50 under this treaty regularly over the last three decades, and it is
1-51 now significantly behind in fulfilling them; in the current cycle,
1-52 Mexico is 984,814 acre-feet in arrears; and

1-53 WHEREAS, During the past 10 years, Mexico has expanded crop
1-54 production in Chihuahua, resulting in the use of water volumes
1-55 exceeding the annual average Mexico agreed to deliver under the
1-56 treaty; this increase has directly impacted water availability for
1-57 downstream users in the RGV, creating economic and environmental
1-58 concerns; the water reserves in the Amistad and Falcon reservoirs
1-59 are at historically low levels; shortages have disrupted key
1-60 sectors, leading to the loss of sugarcane production, significant
1-61 reductions in fruit and vegetable farming, and stalled housing

developments; the only sugar mill in Texas closed permanently in 2024; moreover, rural municipalities have been forced to purchase water from outside districts, incurring up to 60 percent higher monthly costs; and

WHEREAS, The 1944 Treaty requires that the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, which is a subdivision of the United States Department of State, ensure compliance with the terms of the 1944 Treaty; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has conveyed and communicated these issues and concerns to the International Boundary and Water Commission, and it is vital that the IBWC and the state department recognize the critical socioeconomic importance of this issue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the U.S. Department of State and the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission to take appropriate action to ensure that Mexico complies with the 1944 Treaty regarding shared water resources and that they take all necessary steps to make deliveries to the United States a priority during annual water allocation deliberations; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the U.S. secretary of state and to the commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico.

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