



*Regional Council of Governments & Economic Development District serving Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy County*

### **RESOLUTION 2023-03**

**WHEREAS**, The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) is the Regional Council of Governments for Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties; and,

**WHEREAS**, the LRGVDC is the administrative agent for the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) (Region M) which is comprised of the following eight (8) counties: Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Maverick, Starr, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata; and,

**WHEREAS**, Region M's purpose is to optimize the supply of water available from the Rio Grande; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Rio Grande is the only source of fresh water for the Rio Grande Valley of Texas; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Rio Grande flows are greatly dependent on inflows from Mexican tributaries that flow into the Rio Grande above Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs; and,

**WHEREAS**, the 1944 Treaty between the United States and Mexico allots to the United States one-third of the tributary inflow from six-named tributaries that flow into the Rio Grande above the international reservoirs and this one-third shall not be less than 350,000 acre-feet as an annual average over a cycle of five consecutive years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the only exception to the annual delivery of this water is if Mexico is experiencing extraordinary drought or has experienced serious accident to the hydraulic systems on the six-named tributaries; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mexico has accumulated over 2.9-million-acre feet of water in the reservoirs on the six-named tributaries since August 2022, and is an indication that Mexico is not in an extraordinary drought and there have been no reports of any accidents to their hydraulic systems; and,

**WHEREAS**, the current five-year Treaty Delivery Cycle commenced October 25, 2020, and Mexico is behind in their deliveries to the United States by over 550,000-acre feet of water; and,

**WHEREAS**, the United States ownership of water in the Amistad/Falcon Reservoir System is slightly less than one years' supply of water; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mexico has sufficient water in storage in the tributaries that the United States is entitled to receive water from and could release this water as called for by the 1944 Treaty.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the LRGVDC strongly urges Mexico to comply with the terms of the 1944 Treaty and release the water due to the United States.

**Adopted and approved by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023**

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Mayor Norma Sepulveda  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President