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NATIONAL SECURITY, ILLICIT FINANCE, AND
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

10/23/2023

Alicia Bárcena
Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico
Plaza Juarez 20, Cuauhtémoc
06010 Ciudad de México, Mexico

Esteban Moctezuma
The Ambassador of Mexico
1911 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Secretary Bárcena and Ambassador Moctezuma,

The current water scarcity in South Texas has created devastating consequences for farmers and residents in the Rio Grande Valley. For this reason, I strongly urge that Mexico immediately deliver water from its reserves to fulfill its water commitment to the United States under the "Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande."

Under this treaty, the Mexican government is required to send an average of 350,000- acre feet of water every year, on a five-year cycle. Unfortunately, the Mexican Government has, thus-far, failed to uphold its end of the treaty on an annual basis. We are just finishing the third year of the water cycle and Mexico's shortfall is so large it will be difficult to make up the difference with just two years left of the cycle. As of now, Mexico has delivered less than 40% of what should have been delivered.

Water is the lifeblood of any community, and South Texas is no exception. Our region heavily relies on water for various purposes, including agriculture and domestic use. The agricultural sector, in particular, is a vital component of our economy, contributing significantly to job creation and food production. Without an adequate water supply, our farmers struggle to irrigate their crops, resulting in reduced yields and economic losses.

As good neighbors, we must help each other in times of need. Your Immediate action on water deliveries from your reserves would be greatly appreciated by your neighbors here in the United States, and we ask that this be done expeditiously.

Thousands of families and farmers desperately need this water. Mexico must honor its word and fulfill its commitments to the United States that is owed under the treaty as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress
15th District of Texas