

By: Guillen

H.C.R. No. 100

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, In 1944, the United States and Mexico signed a water
2 treaty governing international utilization of the Rio Grande/Rio
3 Bravo basin, emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, and of the Colorado
4 and Tijuana Rivers, emptying into the Gulf of California and the
5 Pacific Ocean, respectively; and

6 WHEREAS, The treaty obligates the United States to deliver an
7 annual 1.5 million acre-feet of Colorado River water to Mexico and
8 obligates Mexico to deliver from six Rio Bravo tributaries a
9 minimum annual 350,000 acre-feet, averaged over a five-year cycle,
10 to this country; and

11 WHEREAS, The history of the treaty has witnessed no American
12 failures to uphold its more sizable obligation, but Mexico in
13 recent years has failed to live up to its half of the agreement,
14 having accumulated since 1992, as of mid-February 2005, a water
15 debt of approximately 725,000 acre-feet based on numbers reported
16 by the International Boundary and Water Commission; and

17 WHEREAS, Mexican officials long claimed a prolonged drought,
18 spanning more than a decade, as a cause of the water debt
19 accumulation; yet simultaneously, irrigation along the Rio Conchos
20 basin in Chihuahua, the largest tributary contributor to the Rio
21 Grande, moved incongruously toward a more water-intensive crop mix
22 as well as an increase in irrigated acreage; and

23 WHEREAS, While Chihuahuan irrigators applied water lavishly,
24 their shortchanged Texas counterparts, when they had water at all,

1 managed with only a small amount; the result was a one-sided
2 austerity that Texas A&M University analysts estimated to have cost
3 South Texas \$1 billion in total economic impact; and

4 WHEREAS, Admirably, Mexico, since President Vicente Fox took
5 office, has honored its annual treaty obligation, and in only 12
6 months since February 2004, when the debt stood at 1.3 million
7 acre-feet, Mexico has retired almost 45 percent of that amount,
8 demonstrating that complete retirement is doable given strong
9 leadership and honorable commitment; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
11 hereby request the United States secretary of state and the
12 International Boundary and Water Commission to require Mexico to
13 fully repay its Rio Grande/Rio Bravo water debt to the United
14 States; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That Mexico be required to retire the debt over the
16 next three years, contributing equally to the Amistad and Falcon
17 reservoirs, so that the benefits of the water can be enjoyed over
18 the maximum stretch of the United States side of the river; and, be
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward a copy of
21 this resolution to the United States secretary of state, and to the
22 United States and Mexican sections of the International Boundary
23 and Water Commission.