

1-1 By: Lucio III (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.C.R. No. 55
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 11, 2013;
 1-3 April 18, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Natural Resources; May 8, 2013, reported favorably by the
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; May 8, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9			X	
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-20 WHEREAS, Mexico's failure to fulfill its water deliveries to
 1-21 the United States according to the stipulations of a 1944 treaty
 1-22 between the two countries significantly harms the interests of
 1-23 Texas; and

1-24 WHEREAS, The Rio Grande is both an interstate and
 1-25 international river arising in the mountains of Colorado and
 1-26 flowing in a southerly direction through New Mexico, where it forms
 1-27 the border between the United States and Mexico beginning near El
 1-28 Paso; the river is a shared and vital resource providing municipal
 1-29 water for millions of Texans and irrigation water for hundreds of
 1-30 thousands of acres in Texas; and

1-31 WHEREAS, Below Fort Quitman, the waters of the Rio Grande are
 1-32 apportioned to the United States and to Mexico per the terms of the
 1-33 1944 Treaty, "Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana
 1-34 Rivers and of the Rio Grande"; Article IV of the treaty requires
 1-35 that inflows from certain named tributaries of the Rio Grande be
 1-36 apportioned one-third to the United States and two-thirds to
 1-37 Mexico; and

1-38 WHEREAS, The 1944 Treaty specifically requires that "this
 1-39 third shall not be less, as an average amount in cycles of five
 1-40 consecutive years, than 350,000 acre-feet (431,721,000 cubic
 1-41 meters) annually"; Mexico is allowed to deliver less than this
 1-42 annual average amount of water during a five-year cycle only in the
 1-43 event of an extraordinary drought, and not all years in a delivery
 1-44 cycle reflect extraordinary drought conditions; and

1-45 WHEREAS, Many municipal, industrial, and agricultural water
 1-46 users in Texas rely almost exclusively on these waters from the Rio
 1-47 Grande for their water supplies; it is thus critical to the state's
 1-48 interests that, during years in which extraordinary drought is not
 1-49 present, Mexico take all necessary measures to address accumulated
 1-50 water delivery deficits; and

1-51 WHEREAS, During the current five-year delivery cycle, which
 1-52 began on October 25, 2010, Mexico has failed to deliver an amount of
 1-53 water equal to the annual average required by the 1944 Treaty, and
 1-54 the deficit amount so far exceeds 390,000 acre-feet; and

1-55 WHEREAS, Several irrigation districts in the Lower Rio Grande
 1-56 Valley of Texas are now projecting they will exhaust their
 1-57 irrigation water reserves by mid-year 2013 as a result; these same
 1-58 irrigation districts deliver municipal water to almost all of the
 1-59 cities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas; and

1-60 WHEREAS, The 1944 Treaty requires that the United States
 1-61 Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, which

2-1 is a subdivision of the United States Department of State, ensure
2-2 compliance with the terms of the 1944 Treaty; and

2-3 WHEREAS, The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has
2-4 conveyed and communicated these issues and concerns to the
2-5 International Boundary and Water Commission, and it is vital that
2-6 the IBWC and the state department recognize the critical
2-7 socioeconomic importance of this issue; now, therefore, be it

2-8 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
2-9 hereby respectfully urge the U.S. Department of State and the
2-10 United States Section of the International Boundary and Water
2-11 Commission to take appropriate action to ensure that Mexico
2-12 complies with the 1944 Treaty and that it takes all necessary steps
2-13 to make deliveries to the United States a priority during its annual
2-14 water allocation deliberations; and, be it further

2-15 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
2-16 copies of this resolution to the secretary of state of the United
2-17 States and to the commissioner of the International Boundary and
2-18 Water Commission, United States and Mexico.

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