

PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.
Ninth District, Arizona



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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October 19, 2023

Ms. Deb Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Non-Compliance by Mexico with U.S.-Mexico 1944 water treaty

Dear Secretary Haaland:

I write to you concerning information disclosed that Mexico has failed to comply with the 1944 water treaty entitled the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and the Rio Grande that was signed by the United States and Mexico on February 3, 1944 and ratified by the United States Senate on April 18, 1945 and by President Truman on November 1, 1945.

Under the treaty, the United States is required to provide Mexico with 1.5 million acre-feet of water every year from the Colorado River, while Mexico must supply the United States with 1.75 million acre-feet of water from tributaries of the Rio Grande river every five years.

The United States has fully complied with its treaty obligations. Mexico has not.

We are in the third year of the current 5 year cycle, and Mexico is 600,000 acre-feet of water short of the amount – or 39% of the total – that Mexico needs to have provided in order to keep pace with the provisions of the treaty.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality claims that six million people in Texas rely on the Rio Grande for drinking water and that Mexico has failed to provide timely water delivery for the past 30 years.¹ This lack of adherence to the treaty is unacceptable.

Arizona and the other Colorado River states have fully supported the United States' transfer of water to Mexico. Even though Arizona is suffering from drought and the water levels at Lake Mead are very low, U.S. treaty obligations have been achieved.

¹ [ibwc-letter-macias-1-31-2023-1 - Copy.pdf](#)

I urge you to investigate this matter and to:

1. Urge Mexico to meet its obligations within the next six months.
2. If Mexico refuses, declare the treaty to be breached.
3. Authorize the withholding of Colorado River water allocated to Mexico and reallocate it to Arizona and Lake Mead until Mexico has successfully transferred the requisite amount of Rio Grande river water to the United States.

Please let me know your plan of action to address this problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul A. Gosar" followed by a stylized flourish.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress
9th Congressional District, Arizona