



DOCTORS HOSPITAL
at
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SEP 27 2007

COUNTY JUDGE

September 26, 2007

9:00 AM
Wednesday

Honorable J.D. Salinas III
County Judge
Hidalgo County Courthouse
100 E. Cano, 2nd Floor
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Re: Appointment to the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority.

Dear Judge and County Commissioners:

It has been awhile since I last reported to you on the activities of the RGRWA. As you know, I am your appointee to the Authority and have been serving on the authority since its inception in 2003. I was elected Chairman of the Board in 2006 and have been re-elected and am currently the Chairman. I was appointed to the Region M State Water Planning Group by the Authority and I am presently the Vice-Chairman of the Region M Group. I am proud to serve as your appointee and can assure you that I have taken such appointment seriously and have tried to take a leadership role in this service.

The last legislature has reconstituted the organizational structure of the Authority after quite a bit of negotiations with the irrigation districts and farmer interests. I think everyone is satisfied with the outcome and hopefully, now we can fully concentrate on our mission of implantation of water projects. The Authority is working with Region M in filling in on planning studies where Region either does not have the funds or the authority to do so.

The Authority is coordinating information with the El Morillo Drain group. *To that end, we have been informed that the Hidalgo County contribution has not been made to the El Morillo Drain fund overseen by the IBWC and they have asked me to request payment from the county.*

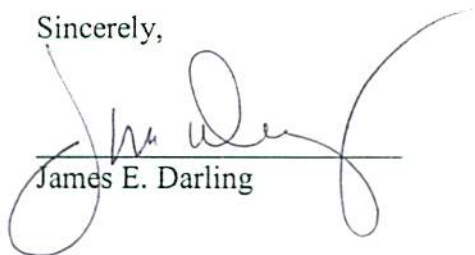
The State (TECQ) is creating designated underground water areas and the Authority is located in two areas. Hidalgo County is within Area 16. We have created a committee to participate in this process. The outcome of this process will determine underground withdrawal capacities and possible priorities.

As always, should you like to attend our meetings, we meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. and we are now meeting at Mission City Hall. One final matter, my appointment from the Commissioners Court had actually expired in 2005. I still serve under the general rule that service continues until a successor is appointed and qualified.

The State, however has asked that we update our appointment authority based on the new legislation. I would still qualify for reappointment and I am willing to serve, however, that is totally up to your discretion. I have changed positions since your original appointment from City Attorney to General Counsel at Doctors Hospital at Renaissance in Edinburg and I am now a City Commissioner in McAllen.

Thanks for your consideration. I will be happy to attend a Commissioners Court meeting at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James E. Darling', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

James E. Darling