



*Tomas Rodríguez
Laredo, *Chairman*

*Sonny Hinojosa
HCID #2, San Juan, *Vice-Chairman*

*Donald K. McGhee
Hydro Systems, Inc., Harlingen

*Frank Schuster
Val Verde Vegetable Co., McAllen

*Nick Benavides
Nick Benavides, Company, Laredo

Glenn Jarvis
Attorney, McAllen

John Bruciak
Brownsville PUB

Sonia Lambert
CCID No. 2, San Benito

James Darling
Rio Grande Regional Water Authority

Carlos Garza, P.E.
AEC Engineering, LLC., Edinburg

Dennis Goldsberry
North Alamo WSC, Donna

Joe Rathmell
Zapata County Judge

Jaime Flores
Arroyo Colorado Partnership, Weslaco

Armando Vela
Red Sands GCD, Linn

Humberto Gonzalez
Jim Hogg County Judge

Robert Pena, Jr.
Texas Energy Consultants, Edinburg

Dale Murden
Texas Citrus Mutual, Mission

Riazul Mia
City of Laredo, Engineer

Dr. Neal Wilkins
East Wildlife Foundation

Jorge Flores
Eagle Pass Water Works

*Executive Committee

April 24, 2018

Judge Ramon Garcia
Hidalgo County
P.O. Box 1356
Edinburg, TX 78540

Dear Judge Garcia:

Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG), was originally formed in 1997 by the State Legislature in the significant water legislation referred to as Senate Bill 1 (SB-1) and designated by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to develop a regional water plan for Region M defined by the TWDB. Region M, comprises the eight (8) counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Maverick, Starr, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata. The RGRWPG has the legislative charge to develop and maintain a viable Regional Water Plan consistent with the guidelines set forth by the TWDB every five years. This is a crucial accomplishment as water conservation and supply improvements, projects designed to meet the future water supply needs of the Region must be consistent with this Plan in order to receive funding assistance from the State of Texas. The Plan can be viewed on the TWDB website at www.twdb.state.tx.us.

Funding for the development of the Regional Plan, which is incorporated by the TWDB into the State Water Plan and presented to the State Legislature, is provide through the TWDB. However, many of the incidental and local administrative costs are not funded by the State and must be covered by entities in the Region. I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank you for your contributions to the last planning cycle.

The RGRWPG unanimously approved a goal to raise approximately **\$85,326.00** from local governments in financial support for the next five (5) year planning cycle. As in the past, the RGRWPG approved a formula for collecting this amount assessed on a five (5) cents per capita basis utilizing the 2016 Texas State Center Census Data Population Estimates. Utilizing this formula, the local contribution requested from your local government is **\$12,919.10**.

Stewards of water resources from Amistad to the Gulf

Administrative Agent: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, Ron Garza, Executive Director
301 W Railroad – Weslaco, Texas 78596
Telephone: 956-682-3481 Fax: 956-631-4670 Website: riograndewaterplan.org

On behalf of the RGRWPG members, we recognize the hard economic times all of us are facing; however, I trust your local government can contribute to this planning process that is so critical to the economic sustainability of this region. For your convenience, a statement is enclosed for processing.

Please note that checks should be made payable to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) as the LRGVDC is continuing to serve as the administrative/fiscal agent for the RGRWPG.

Thank you for consideration of this request and for the past support of this major drought planning process. I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in the future; and should there be any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or Ron Garza at the LRGVDC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tomas M. Rodriguez Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tomas M. Rodriguez Jr., P.E., Chairman
Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group

Enclosures

Cc: Ron Garza, LRGVDC, Executive Director