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Judge Richard Cortez
Hidalgo County Judge
100 E. Cano St.
Second Floor
Edinburg, TX 7853

Dear Judge Cortez:

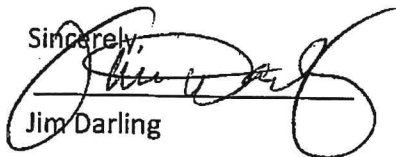
I am writing you as the Hidalgo County appointee to the Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority. I have served on the Board as the Hidalgo County appointee for 22 years and have served as the President of the Board for 16 of the 20 years. I have also been the Authority's appointee to the Region M Water Planning Group for 22 years. In my private law practice, I had extensive experience in water issues in the Valley including representation of water districts as well as local governments re water issues. I am respectfully submitting my request for reappointment for an additional two year term as the Hidalgo County appointee to the Board of Directors.

The Authority is a statutory board made up of 9 irrigators appointed by the irrigation districts caucus, 6 county appointees, one each from the six counties making up the geographical territory of the Authority (Cameron County to Maverick County along the Rio Grande River) and one City appointee, a Water Supply Corporation appointee and a public appointee. All except the Counties' appointees are appointed by the Governor.

The Authority is required to set the market rate for water rights sales annually, and is authorized to issue debt for water projects (none outstanding). The Authority exercises limited oversight of the El Morrillo Drain operations by the IBWC. The Authority has other statutory functions relating to regional water projects (in the past the Authority has sponsored studies for regional services).

I look forward to serving Hidalgo County on the Authority Board. If you have any questions, please do call me at your convenience. Thank you and the Board of Commissioners for their consideration.

Sincerely,



Jim Darling