

*Proclamation Honoring Jesus Flores  
Upon His Retirement*

*Whereas* After five decades of dedicated service, Jesus Flores officially concluded his tenure with the Engelman Irrigation District on January 23, 2026. His retirement marks the end of an era for one of the Rio Grande Valley’s smaller but strategically significant surface water districts; and

*Whereas* Flores was elected to the Engelman Irrigation District board in 1976, beginning a remarkable 50-year commitment to water stewardship, agricultural sustainability, and long-term regional planning. Over the course of his service, he held every leadership role on the board, including director, secretary, vice president, and president. Throughout each role, Flores was known for serving with honesty and integrity, consistently making decisions based on what was best for the district and the communities it serves. His 50 years as an elected official stands as a rare and remarkable achievement in public service; and

*Whereas* During his final meeting, the board formally appointed Anna Flores to fill his seat. Anna Flores, his daughter, also serves on the North Alamo Water Board, continuing a family legacy of leadership and public service in regional water management; and

*Whereas* Founded in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as part of the Valley’s original irrigation buildout, the Engelman Irrigation District was created to deliver Rio Grande water to lands that were too elevated, distant, or fragmented to be served by gravity alone. Today, the district serves approximately 8,000 acres of irrigated farmland in eastern Hidalgo County; and

*Whereas* Throughout his tenure, Flores was recognized for his steady leadership and long-range vision. One of his enduring goals has been to see Engelman become an interconnection and distribution hub linking multiple irrigation districts and municipalities. This vision focuses on strengthening drought resiliency and ensuring reliable water delivery through expanded reservoirs and improved water conveyance systems; and

*Whereas* As Jesus Flores steps into retirement, his legacy is firmly rooted in the stability and long-term direction of the Engelman Irrigation District. His decades of leadership helped guide the district through changing agricultural needs, water challenges, and regional growth. The policies he supported and the vision he championed will continue to shape the district’s work for generations to come.

*Now, therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby celebrates Mr. Jesus Flores’ 50 years of exemplary service, thanks him for moving Hidalgo County forward through his irrigation work, and wishes him well in his retirement.

**Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.**

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**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
County Judge

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**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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**EDUARDO “EDDIE” CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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**EVERARDO “EVER” VILLARREAL**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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**ELLIE TORRES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**  
County Clerk