

Hidalgo County

Resolution asking the Biden Administration to fill in dangerous breaches to Hidalgo County's protective levee system

- Whereas* the ongoing national debate over a new immigration policy has included the wisdom of a border wall along parts of southern Hidalgo County resulting in different national administrations adopting different policies regarding a border wall; and
- Whereas* contractors have been working to construct several miles of border wall in Hidalgo County to complement several miles of wall that already had been built; and
- Whereas* federal officials opted to use portions of an existing earthen levee system for border wall construction to be located either atop or adjacent to the protective barrier; and
- Whereas* this levee system is an important man-made barrier protecting large swaths of Hidalgo County from excessive flooding, particularly along the international boundary of the Rio Grande; and
- Whereas* contractors building the newest sections of border wall tore down several areas of the existing earthen levee to allow for the transport of construction equipment and effectively breached the protective levee barrier along several points in Hidalgo County; and
- Whereas* the incoming administration of President Joe Biden ordered an immediate and temporary halt to all border wall construction; and
- Whereas* contractors, under the aegis of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dutifully halted said construction; and
- Whereas* the border wall construction project sits idle and the breaches to the protective levee system remain open along several points of the barrier; and
- Whereas* Hidalgo County faces the prospect of its protective levee system compromised by several intentional breaches due to construction as it looks forward to summer months and, in particular, the annual hurricane season when flooding is a particular concern; and
- Whereas* structural engineers and other experts in hydrology have indicated such breaches expose several populated areas of Hidalgo County to the potential of dangerous and life-threatening flooding.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court calls on the Biden Administration to temporarily lift its border wall construction ban and order the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to direct contractors to rebuild the levees to an equal-to or better-than pre-construction state so as to mitigate the danger of flooding to our community.

Be it further resolved that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court asks the Texas delegation to the United States Congress to impress on the Biden Administration the dangers of these levee wall breaches and implore the administration to fill these breaches.

Approved this 27th day of April, 2021.



RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge



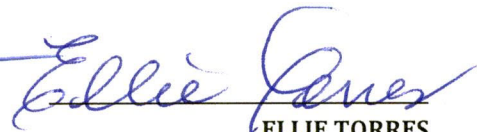
DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1



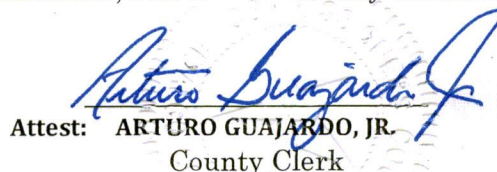
EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2



EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3



ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4



Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk

