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Former Secretary of State Rolando Pablos enters the world of energy as consultant

Former Texas Secretary of State Rolando Pablos is a busy guy. Less than a year after leaving state government, Pablos has become an energy entrepreneur and consultant based in San Antonio. He's developing a solar farm in northern Mexico with a partner from Spain and working for both oil and gas and renewable energy companies in the U.S. and Mexico who want to engage in cross-border business. The transition to the energy world is not completely surprising for a lawyer who has spent two decades building political and business connections. In fact, Pablos, founding CEO of the Borderplex Alliance — an El Paso-based organization devoted to spurring economic development between West Texas, southern New Mexico and northern Mexico — had left the organization in 2016 to start his own renewable energy firm. But Pablos shelved the plan and he got a call from Gov. Greg Abbott asking him to be secretary of state.

He stayed on the job through December 2018 when he announced his resignation, saying it was time to go back to his law practice. Pablos, who has been active in the Republican party for decades, wouldn't identify his consulting firm's clients, but said it includes oil and gas exploration companies that want to expand their fracking activity into northern Mexico. The Eagle Ford Shale extends into Mexico, but Pablos said Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who took office in December, won't allow fracking in his country. "Hopefully, he will change his mind," said Pablos. "There are Texas companies poised to enter the market." Pablos said his partnership with a Madrid company — whom he declined to identify — to build a solar facility in Mexico should be announced in the next several weeks. The 100-megawatt solar project, he said, will serve to a large factory in the region.

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