



AGENDA MEMORANDUM
City Council Meeting of February 11, 2020

DATE: February 3, 2020
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Dan Grimsbo, Executive Director of Water Utilities
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361-826-1689

**Corpus Christi Seawater Desalination
Siting and Permitting Project Update**

STAFF PRESENTER(S):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Position</u>	<u>Department</u>
1. Steve Viera	Assistant City Manager	
2. Dan Grimsbo	Executive Director of Water Utilities	Water Utilities
3. Steve Ramos	Water Resource Manager	Water Utilities

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, an effort was started to evaluate potential future water supplies because of drought conditions experienced 2010-2013. A group which included Port Industry members, the Port of Corpus Christi, the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation, the City of Corpus Christi, and the San Patricio Municipal Water District (SPMWD) was established to evaluate seawater desalination. The first four entities contributed the funding for this initial effort, and a team led by Freese and Nichols, Inc. (FNI) was selected by the group to serve as the "Owner's Representative" for all the stakeholders. The FNI team included global, national, and state experts with desalination experience, public-private partnership expertise, and Texas/Federal permitting experience. Intensive evaluations and discussions were held over a two-year period (2014-2016) to determine the feasibility of seawater desalination as a water source and also to develop a financial and administratively viable approach. Industry partners contributed extensively by providing engineering and technical support. SPMWD and various San Patricio industrial companies were also involved throughout this process.

The City then moved to the next phase of the Siting and Permitting Project. A State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) loan for \$2.7 Million was obtained from the Texas Water Development Board in November 2017. These funds are being used for evaluating potential sites and obtaining key permits.

This presentation will discuss the ongoing activity regarding the Corpus Christi Seawater Desalination Siting and Permitting Project, and will inform City Council that the Water Rights and Discharge Waste Water applications for both the Inner Harbor and La Quinta Channel locations have been submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and that the SWIFT abridged (pre-application) loan application for \$222,475,000 has been submitted to the Texas Water Development Board.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

None