

2014

TML RESOLUTION COVER SHEET

Sponsoring Entity: City of Corpus Christi

Brief Background: Seawater desalination is the only uninterrupted water management strategy. It has been 12 years since Governor Rick Perry tasked the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) with developing a proposal to build Texas' first large-scale seawater desalination plant to produce drinking water and more than a decade since the passage of House Bill 1370 directing TWDB to research what was needed to advance the development of cost-effective water supplies from seawater desalination in Texas. There are 46 inland public water supply desalination plants operating in Texas, but ZERO seawater desalination plants.

What the Resolution is Intended to Accomplish: Encourage the 84th Texas Legislature to appropriate adequate funding to implement one or more seawater desalination projects to meet Texas' water supply needs that will strengthen Texas' economy and sustain economic prosperity.

How the Resolution is City-Related/How it Addresses a Municipal Issue: In many areas, municipalities provide wholesale or retail water for municipal, irrigation, manufacturing, livestock, mining, and steam-electric power water user groups. Seawater desalination projects are expensive and a partnership between municipalities, the State of Texas, and, potentially, the private sector, may be the most cost-effective way of meeting Texas' water supply needs.

Statewide Importance: The Legislature has an opportunity to make funding for seawater desalination a priority to meet the State of Texas' water supply needs. The funding would support the state's projected population growth and help fuel the state's economic expansion over the next 50 years. Producing an uninterrupted supply of desalinated seawater will diversify the water supply. It could make water available for other regions with water needs. Numerous options become available for inter-regional cooperation and joint projects to meet water supply needs. The uninterrupted desalinated seawater available will ensure the job-producing, tax-generating, economy-driving oil and gas, energy, chemical, and manufacturing industries in those areas, will continue to thrive keeping Texas prosperous.

Submitted By:

Name: Tom Tagliabue

Title: Director, Intergovernmental Relations

City: City of Corpus Christi

Telephone: 361/826-3850 (work)

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RESOLUTION

Recommend the 84th Texas Legislature appropriate adequate funding for the Fiscal Years 2016-2017 biennium for the State of Texas to partner with local project sponsors to implement one or more seawater desalination projects to provide uninterrupted water supply and have corresponding positive impacts for water supplies in adjacent regions which will strengthen Texas' economy and sustain economic prosperity.

WHEREAS, Texas is experiencing what could be a new drought of record and many regions of the State of Texas lack water supplies to support its thriving economy and growing population; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2012 State Water Plan, in a serious drought, Texas does not and will not have enough water to meet the needs of its people, its businesses, and its agricultural enterprises; and

WHEREAS, it has been 12 years since Governor Rick Perry tasked the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) with developing a proposal to build Texas' first large-scale seawater desalination plant to produce drinking water and more than a decade since the passage of House Bill 1370 directing TWDB to research what was needed to advance the development of cost-effective water supplies from seawater desalination in Texas.

WHEREAS, to date, the TWDB has funded 17 brackish groundwater desalination projects for a total of about \$3.05 million, and 10 seawater desalination projects for a total of approximately \$3.55 million and, so far, there are 46 inland public water supply desalination plants operating in Texas, but zero seawater desalination plants; and

WHEREAS, in the 2012 State Water Plan, four regional water planning groups (Regions H, L, M, and N) recommended seawater desalination as one of the water management strategies that would produce 153,514 acre-feet per year of new water supplies by 2060 and project that those strategies would represent 1.7% of all the new supplies in the state; and

WHEREAS, current statutes do not limit or restrict implementation of seawater desalination projects, but the lack of state funding for large scale seawater desalination projects limits the affordability of the project placing the entire financial burden on the local project sponsor, which is typically a municipality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Corpus Christi, hereby recommend the 84th Texas Legislature appropriate adequate funding for the Fiscal Years 2016-2017 biennium for the State of Texas to invest grant dollars (not loans) to partner with local project sponsors on one or more large scale seawater desalination projects to provide uninterrupted water supply and have corresponding positive impacts for water supplies in adjacent regions which will strengthen Texas' economy and sustain economic prosperity.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Corpus Christi, hereby recommend that the Texas Municipal League (TML) adopt a resolution at the 2014 TML Annual Conference in Houston recommending the introduction and passage of the General Appropriations Act for FYs 2016-2017 that includes grant funding assistance to local project sponsors to implement one or more seawater desalination projects to provide uninterrupted water supply and have corresponding positive impacts for water supplies in adjacent regions which will strengthen Texas' economy and sustain economic prosperity.

This resolution takes effect upon City Council approval on this the _____ day of _____, 2014.

ATTEST:

THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Rebecca Huerta
City Secretary
Corpus Christi, Texas

Nelda Martinez
Mayor

_____ of _____, 2014

The above resolution was passed by the following vote:

Nelda Martinez	_____
Kelley Allen	_____
Rudy Garza	_____
Priscilla Leal	_____
David Loeb	_____
Chad Magill	_____
Colleen McIntyre	_____
Lillian Riojas	_____
Mark Scott	_____