

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, AMENDING THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS; RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC DROUGHT IMPACTING THE COASTAL BEND; AND IDENTIFYING THE CITY'S DIVERSIFIED WATER SUPPLY STRATEGY INCLUDING GROUND WATER, WASTEWATER REUSE, BRACKISH WATER AND SEAWATER DESALINATION INITIATIVES.

WHEREAS, the Coastal Bend region is experiencing a historic and prolonged drought that has significantly reduced combined reservoir levels, thereby impacting the City of Corpus Christi and its role as the regional water supplier for seven (7) counties through Corpus Christi Water and demonstrating the long term instability of reliance on surface water as the primary sources for sustainable water supply; and

WHEREAS, the City of Corpus Christi must continue to secure immediate water resources to remediate the shortfall and ensure supply meets demand, and pursue short and long-term, diversified, drought-resilient water supply strategies to ensure the reliability, sustainability, and economic vitality of the region; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes Governor Abbott and the Texas Legislature, specifically our legislative delegation of Senators and Representatives, for their leadership, including a historic direct appropriation initiated by Representative Villalobos' request, resulting in \$16 million for upgrades to the Mary Rhodes Pipeline and \$30 million for the development of the Nueces County Groundwater Program; and

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2026, City staff publicly informed the City Council of the City's intent to pursue a \$25 million Texas Water Development Board Water Supply and Infrastructure Grant (WISG) Program award to advance brackish reverse-osmosis water supply development; and

WHEREAS, City Council approved \$2.7 million in water reservation fees for 50 mgd from the Nueces River Authority Harbor Island Desalination project, and City leadership and representatives of the Nueces River Authority traveled to Washington, D.C., on January 20–21, 2026, to advocate for federal funding ; and

WHEREAS, the City appreciates Congressman Michael Cloud's leadership in working with President Donald J. Trump to secure a commitment toward the City's \$500 million request for the Inner Harbor Seawater Desalination Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, City staff continue to work closely with Congressional leaders on the development of Community Project Funding Appropriations Requests to secure federal appropriations for ground water, wastewater reuse, brackish and seawater desalination projects for water supply needs; and

WHEREAS, City leadership will bring forward a resolution for City Council to direct staff to collaborate with CPS Energy for options to develop a desalination facility at Barney Davis; and

WHEREAS, the City will identify additional avenues to provide grants and low-interest loans to finance the construction and provide reimbursement on emergency projects like the Evangeline Groundwater program, Nueces groundwater development, and conveyance infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, continued collaboration with federal and state policymakers is essential to securing the funding, regulatory support, and legislative authority necessary to permit, develop, and finance water supply projects, including groundwater, water reuse, brackish and seawater desalination, and water conveyance systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby recognizes and expresses its sincere appreciation to federal and state lawmakers for their ongoing partnership and for the significant financial assistance already secured to advance and diversify regional water supply projects.

SECTION 2. The City Council updates the City’s federal and state legislative agendas to continue pursuing the funding, legislation, and regulatory support necessary to permit, develop, and fund water supply projects, including but not limited to groundwater development, wastewater reuse, brackish and seawater desalination, and water conveyance infrastructure.

SECTION 3. City staff are directed to prioritize working with federal and state policymakers, agencies, and regional partners to identify, pursue, and secure all available funding opportunities, legislation, and regulatory support for water supply projects that will provide water the quickest for the city’s efforts to avoid water use curtailment.

Section 4. City staff are further directed to continue working collaboratively with federal and state policymakers, agencies, and regional partners to identify, pursue, and secure all available funding opportunities and legislative mechanisms that support the Corpus Christi Water’s long-term water supply diversification strategies.

PASSED and APPROVED on the _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Paulette Guajardo, Mayor

Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary