



AGENDA MEMORANDUM
City Council Meeting of December 10, 2019

DATE: November 26, 2019

TO: Peter Zaroni, 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 Quarterly
Update**

STAFF PRESENTER(S):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Position</u>	<u>Department</u>
1. Mark Van Vleck	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 2010-13. Major industrial water users urged the City of Corpus Christi, as the regional water supplier, to consider desalination. A group was established 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). 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 of 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 are ready to be submitted. These applications require fees to be submitted, and staff will be returning to City Council to obtain that authorization. In addition, a motion from City Council is needed to grant the City Manager "signature authority" for the applications.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

None