



A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INVESTMENT IN ADDITIONAL RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE WATER RESOURCES FOR THE COASTAL BEND.

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI IS THE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLIER FOR APPROXIMATELY 500,000 PEOPLE IN THE COASTAL BEND; AND

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI DIRECTLY, OR INDIRECTLY, PROVIDES THE WATER CRITICAL TO RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, INDUSTRIES, GOVERNMENT AND NOT FOR PROFIT ENTITIES; AND

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI HAS LONG BEEN A WATER PLANNING LEADER IN THE STATE OF TEXAS SECURING WATER SUPPLIES FROM FOUR DIFFERENT RIVER BASINS; AND

WHEREAS, THIS AREA IS A DROUGHT PRONE REGION, SUBJECT TO PERIODS WHERE THERE IS A PROFOUND LACK OF RAINFALL THUS EXERTING PRESSURE ON EXISTING SUPPLIES THAT ARE ALL DEPENDENT ON RAINFALL; AND

WHEREAS, FOR THE AREA TO CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLY IS NEEDED; AND

WHEREAS, IN 2014 THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI WITH OTHER PARTNERS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE PORT INDUSTRIES OF CORPUS CHRISTI, EMBARKED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO SECURE A DROUGHT PROOF SOURCE OF WATER TO AUGMENT EXISTING SUPPLIES; AND

WHEREAS, THIS GROUP FOUND SEAWATER DESALINATION TO BE FEASIBLE FROM VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES INCLUDING COST AND PRIORITIZED IT AS THE NEXT SOURCE OF WATER; AND

WHEREAS, THESE MAJOR WATER USERS AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE VIA A VOLUNTARY DROUGHT SURCHARGE FEE PER 1000 GALLONS OF USE WITH THE FUNDS BEING DEDICATED TO A NEW WATER SUPPLY; AND

WHEREAS, THE COASTAL BEND COMPONENT (REGION N) OF THE STATE WATER PLAN AND THE OVERALL STATE WATER PLAN HAS LONG INCLUDED SEAWATER DESALINATION AS STRATEGY FOR OUR REGION AND FOR THE STATE; AND

WHEREAS, THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD SELECTED THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI SEAWATER DESALINATION EFFORT FOR FUNDING IN TWO COMPETITIVE

STATEWIDE PROCESSES FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE STATE WATER IMPLEMENTATION FUND FOR TEXAS (SWIFT); AND

WHEREAS. THE FIRST SWIFT LOAN OF \$2.75 MILLION AWARDED THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI WAS UTILIZED FOR SITING, ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION, ADDITIONAL COST ANALYSIS AND PERMIT DEVELOPMENT FOR TWO SEAWATER DESALINATION PROJECTS, ONE ALONG THE INNER HARBOR AND ONE ALONG THE LA QUINTA CHANNEL; AND

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI WAS SELECTED TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF \$222 MILLION FOR THE NEXT STEPS TO INCLUDE PROCUREMENT OF PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITY TO DESIGN, BUILD AND AT A MINIMUM COMMISSION A 20 MILLION GALLONS PER DAY PLANT ON THE INNER HARBOR; AND

WHEREAS, MULTIPLE CITY COUNCILS OF THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI HAVE SUPPORTED THIS EFFORT BUT HAVE BEEN RESOLUTE THAT IT COULD NOT PRODUCE "RATE SHOCK" OR HAVE DISCERNABLE IMPACTS ON THE RATES PAID BY BUSINESS AND OTHER WATER CUSTOMERS; AND

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI HAS CONSISTENTLY PROVIDED INFORMATION TO THE UNITED CORPUS CHRISTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BEGINNING IN 2014 AND CONTINUING THROUGH A RECENT PRESENTATION ON THE PROJECT IN 2020; AND

WHEREAS, THE CHAMBER RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR AN ADEQUATE, RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE, PREDICTABLE AND GROWING WATER SUPPLY TO ENSURE A HEALTHY ECONOMIC CLIMATE FOR BUSINESSES AND FAMILIES TO THRIVE; AND

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THE UNITED CORPUS CHRISTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR REGION DEMONSTRATED BY THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD THROUGH THE APPROVAL OF THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL SWIFT FUNDS FOR A SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT ON THE INNER HARBOR AND APPLAUDS THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI FOR ITS CONTINUING AND FARSIGHTED PURSUIT OF SUFFICIENT WATER SUPPLIES TO MEET THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF OUR CITY AND OUR REGIONAL PARTNERS.



JOHN LARUE
PRESIDENT & CEO



LIBBY AVERYT
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

08/19/2020

DATE