

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Central Texas drought has resulted in low lake inflows, with the storage capacity of the Highland lakes currently estimated to be 37 percent full despite recent rains and major flood events; and

WHEREAS, entities around the region are currently exploring options for supplementing existing water supplies in the face of prolonged drought and the potential for climate change leading to reduced water availability in future years; and

WHEREAS, City staff have been preparing to brief City Council on alternative water source options later this Spring; and

WHEREAS, City Council Resolution 20140327-039 directed the City Manager to provide a comparative analysis of a variety of alternative water source options, including short-, mid-, and long-range needs; and

WHEREAS, some options for procuring additional water through alternative sources may have consequences that are not aligned with Austin's community values and the Imagine Austin Plan and/or may trigger substantial rate increases to Austin Water Utility customers; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Water Utility's "integrated water resource planning" to date has not been developed or vetted with the community or with relevant boards and commissions and stakeholder groups; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the City Council created the Joint Financial Subcommittee of the Resource Management Commission, the Water and Wastewater, and the Impact Fee Advisory Commission to make

recommendations with input from the public for short-term and long-term financial plans to strengthen the financial stability of Austin Water Utility; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Financial Subcommittee has been reconvened to provide input on strategies to manage the financial impacts associated with the prolonged drought but will not be tasked with evaluating comprehensive or integrated water planning; and

WHEREAS, an integrated water management plan for the City of Austin would benefit from substantial stakeholder input to ensure that water supply strategies reflect the values of the community and the Imagine Austin Plan; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

1. The Austin Water Resource Planning Task Force is created to evaluate the City's water needs, to examine and make recommendations regarding future water planning, and to evaluate potential water resource management scenarios for Council consideration.
2. The Task Force will consist of eleven members in total, including one representative each from and elected by the Water and Wastewater Commission, the Resource Management Commission, the Environmental Board, and the Joint Financial Subcommittee as well as one member appointed by each Council Member.
3. The City Manager will place an item on the April 15, 2014, City Council work session agenda for Council to discuss potential Task Force appointees, ensuring that appointees possess some expertise in water resource, environmental, and sustainability issues. Care will be taken to ensure that Task Force membership is not weighted in favor of any one interest group.

4. A quorum for the conduct of business is a majority of Task Force members. The Task Force shall elect a chair and vice-chair at its first meeting.
5. The Task Force shall examine and make recommendations regarding any alternative water sources including, but not be limited to, conservation, reuse, regional transmission systems and partnerships, groundwater, aquifer storage, as well as other potential sources in the region. In doing so, the Task Force shall consider and make recommendations consistent with the goals and provisions of the Imagine Austin Plan.
6. The task force will be subject to the Open Meetings Act, all meetings will be open to the public, and the public will be given a reasonable amount of time to provide input.
7. The City Manager shall provide reasonably necessary resources and [technical assistance to the Task Force. The Austin Water Utility and the Watershed Protection Department shall support the Task Force.]
8. The Task Force shall issue a final report containing its recommendations to the City Council no later than June 20, 2014.
9. The Task Force shall dissolve upon delivery of its recommendations to the City Council or within one year of the adoption of this resolution, whichever occurs first.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk