

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the Central Texas region continues to be affected by drought at the same time it experiences tremendous growth; and

WHEREAS, Council Resolution. 20140410-033 created the Water Resource Planning Task Force (Task Force) to examine and make recommendations regarding any alternative water sources including, but not limited to, conservation, reuse, regional transmission systems and partnerships, groundwater, aquifer storage, as well as other potential sources in the region consistent with the goals and provisions of the Imagine Austin Plan; and

WHEREAS, among the key recommendations of the Water Resource Planning Task Force was the development of an Integrated Water Resource Plan and Independent Conservation Assessment, and the goals of this plan are identified in the July 2014 Austin Water Resource Planning Task Force final report; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force recommended the City explore different approaches beyond the Utility's current financial model (based on revenue from water sales, affordability, and conservation) and conduct an independent assessment of water conservation; and

WHEREAS, in a September 25, 2014, memo the Austin Water Utility indicated that it "anticipates following SAWS' model of IWRP development," using industry experts, academic partners, and in-house resources "to conduct the project with independent consultants for key tasks that require specialized knowledge or when other additional resources are needed"; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that having an independent consultant with knowledge, experience, and expertise in drought scenario water resource planning throughout the development of the Integrated Water Management Plan would substantially further and enhance the work envisioned by the Task Force; and

WHEREAS, creating a community-based body to participate in the development of the Integrated Water Resource Plan would add value to the process and product;

NOW THEREFORE,

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

That the City Manager is directed to hire a consultant within the current budget allocation to support the Integrated Water Resource Plan process. The consultant should have demonstrated commitment to and expertise in:

- Water conservation and efficiency
- Water reuse
- Distributed and decentralized water systems
- Sustainable water resource planning
- Alternative water utility financial models

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Water Resource Planning Task Force is created to support the Integrated Water Resource Plan. The Task Force will consist of eleven members in total, with diverse and balanced representation from a broad range of customers such as low-income renters and homeowners, high-volume commercial and/or multifamily customers educational and institutional customers, small businesses, Austin's environmental/conservation community, residential builders, and recreational water users. Participants should have significant expertise in water efficiency and innovation.

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, and shall comply with the Open Meetings Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide reasonably necessary resources and technical assistance to the Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Austin City Council hereby directs the City Manager to appoint a representative from each of the following departments as ex officio, non-voting members of the Task Force:

- Office of Innovation and Office of Sustainability
- Austin Water Utility
- Austin Energy
- Watershed Protection and Development Review
- Solid Waste Services
- Parks and Recreation
- Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager will place an item on the February 10, 2015, work session agenda for Council to discuss potential Task Force appointees.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014

ATTEST: _____
Janette S. Goodall
City Clerk