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WHEREAS, in mid-October regional heavy rains and flooding upstream from Austin resulted in extraordinarily high levels of turbidity in the Austin Water Utility's water supply, causing the city's drinking water to exceed Texas Commission on Environmental Quality standards and temporarily rendering the city's drinking water potentially unfit for safe consumption; and

WHEREAS, City Staff at Austin Water and the City Manager’s office, as well as all of our Emergency Operations Command partners, worked tirelessly around the clock to get clean drinking water back to our residents and businesses during this unprecedented water service disruption;

WHEREAS, the tremendous effect of this crisis has been felt across our community, including but not limited to renters, homeowners, senior housing, schools, hospitals, and businesses; and

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

29 The Council supports the City Manager and Austin Water's commitment to
30 fully assess the event and identify areas of improvement, by way of an "After Action
31 Report," and further directs the City Manager to provide a preliminary report and
32 public briefing to the City Council, no later than December 11, 2018, providing
33 information detailing the events leading up to and through the water boil disaster,
34 including but not limited to:

- 35 • an overview of Austin's water treatment facilities' ages, conditions, output
36 capacities, water treatment technologies, why these technologies were chosen
37 during planning and construction, and how we may update these technologies
38 to address future needs; and
39
- 40 • a timeline detailing the foreseeability of the water turbidity issue, Austin
41 Water's knowledge and response to the crisis, as well as when and how the
42 decision to boil water was communicated to residential and commercial
43 customers (this is to include insight into the interim decisions about increased
44 water restrictions and the final decision and communication about ceasing the
45 boil water notice); and
46
- 47 • a detailed account of water quality data as a result of the boil water crisis
48 between October 22 and October 28, including turbidity, bacteria testing and
49 results, and other relevant water quality data; and
50
- 51 • comparative data on turbidity levels experienced in the last ten (10) years with
52 analysis of how this October's spike compared to previous periods of high
53 turbidity outliers; and
54
- 55 • analysis of whether the introduction of zebra mussels may have contributed
56 to the ability of our water treatment infrastructure to process turbid water; and
57
- 58 • an overview of intergovernmental cooperation and communications throughout the
59 crisis; and
60
- 61 • a forecast of the future of Austin's water planning and supply.
62

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

In order to improve our communications in times of emergency, the City Manager should:

- Acknowledge any gaps in City communications, and initial plans for bridging those gaps in the future; and
- Ensure cohesive messaging from partner agencies; and
- Identify segments of the population and economy that are most greatly impacted by a loss of readily available clean water supply, and affirmatively provide those with consistent, specifically targeted and dedicated information and guidance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council renews its commitment to: create a water supply system that is resilient to extreme drought, flooding events, and regional population growth; prioritize development and implementation of the Water Forward Plan and the Austin Water 2020 Strategic Plan; and continue to prioritize support for essential and effective capital investments to providing clean and safe drinking water for our growing city and region.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, 2018 § _____
Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: _____ **ATTEST:** _____
Anne L. Morgan Jannette S. Goodall
City Attorney City Clerk