

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R84

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BOERNE, SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE ONE WATER STRATEGIES AND DIRECTING STAFF TO EXPLORE SUCH STRATEGIES IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the City of Boerne has three primary sources for its potable water supply, including surface water from Canyon Lake and Boerne City Lake as well as groundwater from the Trinity Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the City's water sources are vulnerable to conditions that could limit their availability including drought, reduced recharge, water quality impairments, and heightened demand on regional supplies; and

WHEREAS, without a renewed approach to water supply management, the City could face water shortages in the future; and

WHEREAS, the City of Boerne has already demonstrated its commitment to water conservation and resilience through its capital investments in the creation of retail reclaimed water distribution system, automated meter reading, water main replacement, and aggressive leak detection and repair to curb water loss; and

WHEREAS, acquiring additional water rights and supplies would be very expensive; and

WHEREAS, our region has a history of and reputation for innovative water conservation strategies that produce results, including a tradition of rainwater harvesting and public education campaigns related to groundwater recharge and water conservation; and

WHEREAS, a commitment to water conservation is only one of the necessary steps to water security and resiliency in the future; and

WHEREAS, the City has a responsibility to ensure water supplies in the future can meet demand, and to employ innovative strategies to that end, when necessary; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing suite of water infrastructure and management strategies known as "One Water" that is proving its effectiveness in several Texas communities and across the country; and

WHEREAS, "One Water" is defined as an integrated approach to water management that views all water in our community—drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, greywater—as a single resource to be managed holistically and sustainably, for the benefit of strong economies, vibrant communities, and healthy environments; and

WHEREAS, One Water strategies can include recycling wastewater to offset potable water demand, investing in green infrastructure to ensure stormwaters soak into the ground, capturing water at the building-scale through onsite rainwater harvesting systems or AC-condensate collection, and optimizing potable water supplies through efficiency and conservation; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of organizations and institutions in our region who are available to provide expertise on One Water strategies, including but not limited to the Hill Country Alliance, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University, the National Wildlife Federation, the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, and Texas Water Trade, as well as a growing professional community of engineers and planners versed in One Water design and implementation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOERNE, TEXAS:

by action of the Boerne City Council at a duly noticed and held public meeting and as reflected in the minutes of the Council, be it resolved that the city staff shall study opportunities to deploy One Water strategies in the city, with an assessment of the costs and benefits associated with doing so. These shall include considerations for public infrastructure and facilities, as well as private developments and buildings.

PASSED and APPROVED this the ____ day of November, 2023.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Secretary