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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

TO: Mayor and Council Members
FROM: Councilman Carroll W. Schubert, District 9
COPIES: J. Rolando Bono, *Interim City Manager*; Martha Spedea, *Acting City Attorney*;
Christopher J. Brady, *Assistant City Manager*; Melissa Byrne Vossmer, *Assistant City Manager*; Malcolm Matthews, *Director, Parks and Recreation*; Leticia Vacek, *City Clerk*; Walter Ague, *Assistant to the Mayor*; Gayle McDaniel, *Assistant to the City Council*
SUBJECT: Support of Legislation relating to transport of groundwater withdrawn from the Edwards Aquifer

DATE: April 28, 2005

Please join with me in directing staff to place on the agenda for Council consideration an ordinance supporting the passage of legislation to transport groundwater from the Edwards Aquifer.

Please join the Bexar County Commissioners Court in supporting this message. A draft ordinance for consideration is attached for your review.

Your favorable consideration of this request is most appreciated.


CARROLL W. SCHUBERT
DISTRICT 9

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**RESOLUTION OF THE SAN ANTONIO CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF
LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE TRANSPORT OF GROUNDWATER
WITHDRAWN FROM THE EDWARDS AQUIFER**

- WHEREAS,** the majority of citizens living within San Antonio rely on the Edwards Aquifer as their sole source of drinking water; and
- WHEREAS,** the Texas Legislature in 1993, approved Senate Bill 1477 which created the Edwards Aquifer Authority and set a cap on aquifer withdrawal at 450,000 acre feet of water per year until 2008 when the cap is reduced to 400,000 acre feet per year and outlaws the transport of aquifer water by pipeline from one area to another; and
- WHEREAS,** since 1993, farmers have spent in excess of \$30 million in state-of-the art conservation systems to transfer water to urban area that need water; and
- WHEREAS,** irrigators represent the largest group of permit holders authorized to draw water from Edwards and these irrigators may be interested in selling or leasing their pumping rights, but current law prevents them from transporting water by pipeline from Medina, Kinney and Uvalde counties; and
- WHEREAS,** the Edwards Aquifer Authority is working with local water purveyors to both conserve the use of existing aquifer water and to identify alternative sources of water for our community; and
- WHEREAS,** the repeal of the pipeline prohibition is good for the farmers and it will protect the economies of Medina, Kinney and Uvalde counties; and
- WHEREAS,** the Edwards Aquifer Authority board received a majority vote on April 19, 2005, supporting the removal of the pipeline ban; and
- WHEREAS,** the passage of legislation would allow the transfer of water permitted for irrigation and would allow those permit holders who have excess water to sell it to areas, like the City of San Antonio, which need additional water.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLUTVED THAT THE SAN ANTONIO CITY
COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO TRANSPORT
GROUNDWATER FROM THE EDWARDS AQUIFER**

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ATTACHMENT ITEM
41

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
EXTERNAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Christopher J. Brady, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution of support for legislation allowing the transport of groundwater from the Edwards Aquifer

DATE: May 5, 2005

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

A resolution of support for legislation allowing the transport of groundwater from the Edwards Aquifer.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1993, the Texas Legislature approved Senate Bill 1477, which created the Edwards Aquifer Authority. This bill also set a cap on aquifer withdrawal and prohibits the transport of aquifer water by pipeline from one area to another. Farmers represent the largest group of permit holders authorized to draw water from the Edwards Aquifer, and as a result of significant investments in conservation systems, are now interested in transferring their surplus water to urban areas. Landowners in Medina, Kinney and Uvalde counties are interested in selling or leasing their pumping rights for an estimated 20,000-40,000 acre-feet of water.

On April 29, 2005, Councilmember Carroll Schubert submitted a six-signature memo requesting full Council consideration for a resolution in support of legislation that would remove the pipeline prohibition on transporting groundwater from the Edwards Aquifer.

POLICY ANALYSIS

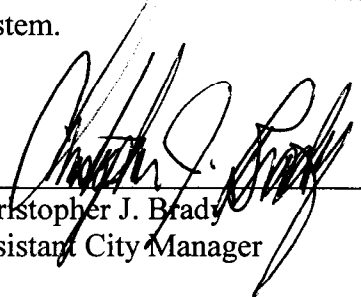
The ordinance is consistent with current City policy to advocate for legislation that is in the best interest of San Antonio and the surrounding area. Removal of the pipeline ban will benefit San Antonio citizens by providing an additional option to satisfy the need for water in our community. Both the Edwards Aquifer Authority and Bexar County Commissioners Court adopted similar resolutions last month.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

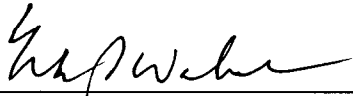
This item has no direct financial impact to the City.

COORDINATION

This item has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the San Antonio Water System.



Christopher J. Brady
Assistant City Manager



J. Rolando Bono
Interim City Manager