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## CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM

### CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

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AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action approving a resolution authorizing the execution of an Emergency Interconnect Agreement with the San Antonio Water System (SAWS)

DATE: December 4, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTED BY: Steven Fried, Assistant Director of Public Works

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#### **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:**

The SAWS Emergency Interconnect, a Capital Improvement Project, aims to improve water system resiliency by establishing an emergency connection to the San Antonio Water System (SAWS). The interconnect will provide the City with a backup water supply source to pressure Zone C in the event of pressure loss, system failure, extended power outage, or other emergencies. The proposed location of the interconnect is at Leslie Pfeiffer Drive, with SAWS-owned metering at the point of delivery.

An Emergency Interconnect Agreement (**Exhibit A**) with SAWS is required prior to connection. Per the agreement, SAWS will provide temporary potable water to the City during qualifying emergency conditions, subject to SAWS system capacity and existing customer priorities. Activation is to be completed only by SAWS personnel upon the City's request and is limited to 30 consecutive days unless an extension is approved by SAWS. The interconnect is intended strictly for emergency use, limited to essential indoor domestic use, and is not intended to serve as a supplemental or redundant water supply. The agreement strengthens the City's ability to maintain water service continuity during critical events and establishes partnerships with other regional water system utilities.

The City of Fair Oaks Ranch will be responsible for the design, permitting, construction, and maintenance of the physical connection, including installation and annual testing and certification of all backflow prevention assemblies, in accordance with SAWS standards and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requirements. The City will maintain sanitary control of its system downstream of the point of delivery and comply with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and SAWS standards for construction, testing, and backflow prevention.

The agreement has a ten-year term with termination rights for either party. It also includes standard indemnification and liability provisions protecting SAWS and the City of San Antonio, consistent with inter-utility contracts of this type.

**POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:**

- Supports Priority 3.1 of the Strategic Action Plan to Enhance and Ensure Continuity of Reliable Water Resources
- Provides a backup source of water for pressure zone C in the event of pressure loss, system failure or other qualifying emergencies

**LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

- Design, construction, and permitting costs will be funded through existing water utility capital project allocations
- Recurring costs include a \$613.72 monthly meter availability fee assessed by SAWS
- Water usage will be billed at the higher of SAWS or the City's residential rate and tier structure during activation events
- No SAWS impact fees will apply

**LEGAL ANALYSIS:**

The City Attorney has reviewed and approved the Emergency Interconnect Agreement to form and legal sufficiency.

**RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:**

I move to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of an Emergency Interconnect Agreement with the San Antonio Water System (SAWS), expenditure of the required funds, and execution of all applicable documents by the City Manager.