

RESOLUTION NO. R-03-2026

JOINT RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL COORDINATION AND SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE SOUTH TEXAS WATER SUPPLY CRISIS

WHEREAS, the counties and communities of South Texas are experiencing significant water supply challenges resulting from prolonged drought conditions, population growth, agricultural needs, aging infrastructure constraints, industrial expansion, and increasing demand on limited water resources; and

WHEREAS, water is a shared and essential resource necessary to protect public health, support economic development, sustain agriculture and industry, maintain ecological balance, and ensure the long-term viability and resilience of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the interconnected nature of surface water and groundwater systems across South Texas requires coordinated regional planning to avoid unintended consequences that cross jurisdictional boundaries and to promote equitable and sustainable management of water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Evangeline Aquifer, along with the entire Nueces River Basin and other regional groundwater sources, serve as important water sources for numerous South Texas counties, rural communities, agricultural producers, and municipal systems, and significant new or accelerated withdrawals from these sources may have cumulative regional impacts, including potential declines in groundwater availability, reduced future supply reliability, risks of land subsidence, and long-term sustainability concerns affecting multiple jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, collaboration among counties, municipalities, groundwater conservation districts, river authorities, and state and federal partners is necessary to ensure that short-term responses do not create unintended long-term regional consequences; and

WHEREAS, the current water shortage highlights the importance of proactive regional planning and investment in diversified water supply options, including conservation strategies, infrastructure modernization, aquifer management, desalination opportunities, water reuse technologies, and coordinated state and federal support to strengthen long-term water security for South Texas; and

WHEREAS, South Texas communities have a strong tradition of working together across jurisdictional boundaries and political affiliations to address shared challenges, recognizing that water security is not a partisan issue but a fundamental public necessity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Fulton of Aransas County:

- 1. Expresses unity across political and geographic boundaries,** recognizing that the counties of South Texas share a common interest in protecting the long-term sustainability of regional water resources and affirming that decisions affecting shared aquifers and water supplies should reflect equitable consideration of all communities reliant upon those resources.
- 2. Affirms its commitment to regional coordination and collaboration** with counties, municipalities, groundwater conservation districts, river authorities, and state leadership to identify balanced, transparent, and sustainable responses to current water supply challenges.
- 3. Supports a coordinated regional planning approach** that evaluates the cumulative impacts of water sourcing decisions and prioritizes solutions that promote long-term water reliability, economic stability, agricultural viability, and public health across South Texas.
- 4. Encourages careful evaluation and monitoring** of any proposed large-scale or accelerated withdrawals from regional groundwater sources, including the Evangeline Aquifer and other connected aquifer systems within the Nueces River Basin and South Texas region, including assessment of potential impacts on groundwater availability, long-term supply reliability, and the sustainability of existing users across multiple jurisdictions.
- 5. Emphasizes that short-term emergency measures should not create disproportionate or irreversible impacts to shared groundwater resources,** particularly recognizing that many rural communities have limited alternatives for water supply diversification.
- 6. Encourages continued exploration of diversified water supply strategies,** including conservation initiatives, infrastructure maintenance and improvements, water reuse technologies, aquifer management strategies, desalination opportunities, and strengthened regional partnerships that improve long-term water resilience, recognizing that such strategies may require financial support through state and/or federal programs.
- 7. Requests coordination with the Office of the Governor, the Texas Water Development Board, groundwater conservation districts, and other appropriate state and regional entities, and supports pursuit of available state and federal funding opportunities,** to ensure that regional impacts are considered in both emergency response measures and long-term water planning decisions affecting South Texas.
- 8. Directs that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted** to the Governor of Texas, members of the Texas Legislature representing the region, the Texas Water Development Board, applicable groundwater conservation districts, regional river authorities, and counties and municipalities across South Texas for consideration and collaboration, and provides that additional counties or political subdivisions may demonstrate support by adopting a similar resolution or by executing additional signature pages attached hereto.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED, in open court, this 20th day of May, 2026.

Kelli Cole, Mayor

ATTESTED BY:

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary