



## ACTION ITEM REPORT

**Item Title:** Consideration and ACTION to approve a resolution of the City of Los Fresnos supporting HB 4331 filed by State Representative Janie Lopez in support of a study by the Texas Water Development Board to identify ways to streamline the environmental review process for flood infrastructure fund projects.

**Recommendation:**

The environmental review process on any project takes an unbelievable amount of time and money. Much of the review is not sensible. For example, we have a detention area around the Nature Park. We are working on a project to drain it with gates instead of with a portable pump that costs a lot of time and money. We have to do an environmental review to assure there is no environmental problem with doing this. It has always been done this way so what possible additional problems to the environment would there be in putting a gate versus a pump and hose. There is none and in fact you could argue successfully that not having to use a pump would be better for the environment, but we have to pay to get someone to say this and wait 6 to 12 months for that to happen. Another example is our existing water detention area near Valle Alto and the drainage ditch that drains water from there to the south and under Highway 100. We want to expand the detention area, expand the ditch and clean all of it up removing trees, brush and trash, but we have to pay for an environmental study to see if there will be any environmental problems created by doing this. We are only cleaning and expanding an existing detention area and drainage ditch but have to do this. It would be understandable if it was a proposed new detention area and new drainage ditch. Again, this is totally senseless, causing a huge waste of time (6 to 12 months) and money.

I recommend approval.