

**RESOLUTION NO. 20091105-039**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin and its water customers depend upon Lake Austin as their sole source of drinking water; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin and its water customers will depend upon Lake Travis as an additional source of drinking water in the near future; and

**WHEREAS**, the excellent water quality of the Highland Lakes makes them major recreational resources, significant sources of employment, substantial contributors to the regional economy, high quality habitat for aquatic life, and an enhancement to residential and commercial property values; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Clements's Select Committee on Water Quality Standards for Lake Travis and Lake Austin strongly recommended prohibitions of new treated wastewater effluent discharges to Lake Austin and Lake Travis in 1983; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1986 the Texas Water Commission (now known as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - TCEQ) promulgated rules prohibiting new treated wastewater effluent discharges to the Highland Lakes, including Lakes Travis and Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) has sophisticated models that predict considerable degradation of water quality in the Highland Lakes if new discharges were to be authorized; and

**WHEREAS**, the water quality of downstream lakes are affected by the water quality in the upstream lakes; and

**WHEREAS**, the segment of the Colorado River into which the City of Austin discharges its treated effluent is an un-impounded segment that differs significantly from the impounded waters of the Highland Lakes where water is held for a longer time; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has voluntarily sought more stringent limits from TCEQ in its discharge permits and is surpassing even those stringent limits; and

**WHEREAS**, TCEQ has consistently designated the water quality immediately downstream of Austin as exceptional; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no public drinking water supply intakes on the Colorado River downstream of Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, degraded water quality of the Highland Lakes will significantly increase drinking water treatment costs, introduce new pollutants, impede recreational uses, degrade aquatic life habitat and adversely impact the regional economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cities of Leander and Granite Shoals filed a petition with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on September 25, 2009 requesting the repeal of 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 311, Subchapters A, B, and F that prohibit discharges of treated wastewater effluent to the Highland Lakes and a significant portion of the watersheds of all these reservoirs ; and

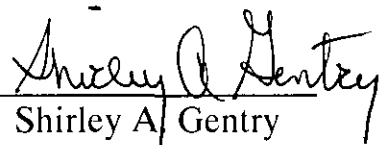
**WHEREAS**, the petition seeks to allow treated wastewater effluent to be discharged into all of the Highland Lakes, including Lakes Travis and Austin;  
**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

Due to the potential for negative impacts to the region's drinking water supply, detrimental effects on recreational resources and aquatic life habitat, and substantial harm to the regional economy, the Austin City Council respectfully requests the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to deny the petition filed by the Cities of Leander and Granite Shoals on September 25, 2009.

ADOPTED: November 5, 2009

ATTEST:

  
Shirley A. Gentry  
City Clerk