

RESOLUTION NO. 20110728-110

WHEREAS, according to the Lower Colorado River Authority, central Texas is experiencing a severe and prolonged drought, with the last nine months being the driest in the state's recorded history; and

WHEREAS, there is a high likelihood that the drought will continue into the fall, triggering Stage 2 water restrictions as early as September 2011; and

WHEREAS, these conditions underscore the need to use available water wisely by improving and expanding conservation and reclamation efforts, and by preventing and reducing distribution losses; and

WHEREAS, in part, in response to drought conditions and associated water restrictions, demand for potable water is considerably lower than previously forecasted by the Austin Water Utility and well within the utility's current treatment capacity; and

WHEREAS, construction of Water Treatment Plant 4 has been undertaken with funds that would otherwise be available to support conservation, reclamation, and distribution improvements, and postponing completion of that plant could make available additional funding to support these improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that substantial progress has been made on construction of Water Treatment Plant 4, and that any decision to postpone completion can only be made after the costs have been fully clarified and weighed against the benefits of the project; and

WHEREAS, the public interest will be best served if sufficient information is provided, considered, and acted upon expeditiously, preferably within thirty days; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to determine the approximate costs associated with postponing completion of Water Treatment Plant 4 for five years and for ten years relative to the costs of on-time completion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

This information shall be estimated to at least the nearest \$5 million, and shall be provided to the City Council and the public by close of business, August 18, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to immediately suspend issuance of Notices to Proceed on construction of Water Treatment Plant 4 until September 2, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

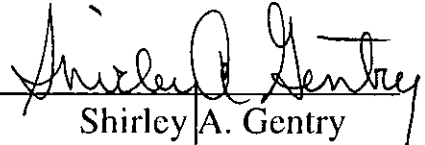
The City Manager is further directed to determine the approximate cost of increased water conservation, reclamation, and distribution improvement above 20% of current capacity for the next five and ten years and without consideration of the existing capital work plan. This information shall be estimated to at least the nearest \$5 million, and shall be provided to the City Council and the public by close of business, August 18, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is further directed to determine how redistribution of Water Treatment Plant 4 cost will most likely impact the financial position of the utility.

ADOPTED: July 28, 2011

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk