



## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MOTION 20181017 007a**

**Date:** October 17, 2018

**Subject:** Water Forward Task Force Resolution

**Motion by:** Hank Smith

**Seconded by:** Brian Smith

### **RATIONALE:**

**WHEREAS**, Austin is one of the fastest growing regions in the country and with a rapidly growing city and a changing climate, Austin Water Utility is working with other city departments and a council appointed citizen task force to develop a water plan for the next century; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the Water Forward Plan is to ensure a diversified, sustainable, and resilient water future with a strong emphasis on water conservation. The plan will consider a range of strategies such as water conservation, water reuse, aquifer storage and recovery and other strategies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force was created by City Council to support development of an Integrated Water Resource Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Austin Water led development of the Water Forward Plan, Austin's 100-year Integrated Water Resource Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan has the following Guiding Principles:

- recognizing that Colorado River water is Austin's core supply, reinforce a strong partnership between the City and LCRA to assure reliability
- continue Austin's focus on water conservation and water use efficiency
- strengthen long-term sustainability, reliability, and diversity of Austin's water supply through maximizing local water resources
- avoid severe water shortages during times of drought
- focus on projects that are technically, socially and economically feasible
- continue to protect Austin's natural environment, including source and receiving water quality
- ensure Austin's water supply continues to meet/exceed all federal, state and local public health regulations
- align with Imagine Austin's "Sustainably Manage Our Water Resources Priority Program"
- maintain coordination and communication with regional partners
- engage the public and stakeholders throughout the plan development process; and

**WHEREAS**, Water Forward contains demand management and water supply strategy recommendations, including water conservation strategies, decentralized alternative water use strategies, use of reclaimed water, and aquifer storage and recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, through Water Forward, Austin Water will be implementing an adaptive management approach with plan updates on a five-year cycle to allow new data to inform planning assumptions.

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Environmental Commission supports adoption by the City Council of the Water Forward Plan.

**VOTE 8-0**

For: B. Smith, Creel, Perales, Thompson, H. Smith, Gordon, Coyne, Maceo

Against: None

Abstain: None

Recuse: None

Absent: Neely, Guerrero

Approved By:

Wendy Gordon, Environmental Commission Vice-Chair