

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF PLAINS TO SUPPORT AN UPDATE TO THE 1982 SIX-STATE HIGH PLAINS OGALLALA AQUIFER REGIONAL RESOURCES STUDY AND TO SOLICIT FEDERAL SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT THE IMPORT OF SURFACE WATER INTO THE HIGH PLAINS REGION**

**WHEREAS**, the Ogallala aquifer is the primary water source for one of the most fertile regions in the world.

**WHEREAS**, groundwater withdrawals continue to outpace recharge, causing depletion of the Ogallala aquifer.

**WHEREAS**, in 1976, Congress authorized the Six State High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer Regional Resources Study of depleting water supplies in the region.

**WHEREAS**, the study was completed in 1982 and was updated in 2015 (collectively, the "1982 Study").

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 update identified alternatives to transfer water to the six states (Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico) included in the study.

**WHEREAS**, the Missouri River has a history of severe flooding.

**WHEREAS**, diverting Missouri River flood water, available seasonal water, other excess water or purchased water could be an effective strategy to mitigate Missouri River flooding and depletion of the Ogallala aquifer.

**WHEREAS**, approximately \$35 billion in crops are grown each year on the High Plains

**WHEREAS**, farmland in the region produces nearly 1/5 of the wheat, corn, and cotton in the United States each year, and nearly 1/2 of the sorghum and cattle in the United States each year.

**WHEREAS**, despite aggressive efforts to conserve water in the region, depletion continues and, without a new source of water, the region will eventually be without a source of water, particularly for irrigation.

**WHEREAS**, as early as 1967, water transfer plans were proposed to divert flood water to supply the foregoing High Plains states.

**WHEREAS**, the 1982 Study further examined the feasibility of water transfer from the Missouri River basin to the High Plains.

**WHEREAS**, a project of this nature could help solve the Missouri River basin flooding and mitigate the High Plains aquifer depletion issues.

**THEREFORE**, the CITY COUNCIL OF PLAINS, TEXAS supports seeking federal legislation to update the 1982 study, and if determined to be feasible, to seek federal funding to implement a surface water import project or the High Plains.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF PLAINS, TEXAS:**

ATTEST



Pamela K. Rowe  
City Secretary  
City of Plains



Robert Whitfield  
Mayor  
City of Plains