

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-1121

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF DENVER CITY, TEXAS (“CITY”) 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 of the world; and

WHEREAS, the groundwater withdrawals continue to outpace recharge, causing depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer; and

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

WHEREAS, the study was completed in 1982 and was updated in 2015 (collectively, the (1982 Study”); and

WHEREAS, the 2015 update identified alternatives to transfer water to the six states (Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico) included in the 1982 Study; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri River has a history of severe flooding; and

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; and

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

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; and

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; and

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


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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Denver City 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 for the High Plains.

Passed and approved this 21st day of November, 2022.

CITY OF DENVER CITY, TEXAS


Tommy Hicks, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lupe Brown, Interim City Secretary