

## DRAFT RESOLUTION

### RESOLUTION NO. 2025-R-333

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, DECLARING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING THE RIO GRANDE RIVERFRONT AS A CRITICAL PUBLIC ASSET; DIRECTING CITY STAFF TO PREPARE AND IMPLEMENT THE "RIO GRANDE RIVERFRONT PARKS AND PUBLIC ACCESS CORRIDOR"; REQUIRING THE INVENTORY AND MAPPING OF PARKLAND, UTILITIES, FLOODWAY AREAS, AND PUBLIC ACCESS FACILITIES; ESTABLISHING INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND INTERIM PROTECTIONS PENDING FULL IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, the Rio Grande and its riverfront lands constitute a vital natural, cultural, recreational, and economic resource for the City of Laredo, forming an essential part of the community's identity and public life; and

**WHEREAS**, the City owns and maintains significant public assets along the riverfront, including parks, open spaces, public access areas, rights-of-way, and critical utilities, that require consistent protection, coordination, and long-range planning to ensure their continued public use and preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's adopted long-range planning documents, including the Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan, identify the riverfront as a continuous public corridor intended to support recreation, ecological restoration, cultural expression, mobility connectivity, flood resilience, and binational collaboration; and

**WHEREAS**, federal agencies have indicated potential project mobilization within the riverfront area as early as 2026, creating an urgent need for the City to safeguard its property interests, municipal infrastructure, public access facilities, and regulatory responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council previously adopted policies emphasizing riverfront protection, intergovernmental engagement, and the need for comprehensive mapping, inventories, legal review, and administrative procedures to prepare for any future federal or state activity affecting municipal riverfront lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council has authorized the engagement of specialized outside legal counsel and directed the establishment of an internal coordination framework to support the City's regulatory, technical, and eminent domain posture; and

**WHEREAS**, interim protective measures are necessary to prevent the unauthorized use, conveyance, or alteration of riverfront properties and to ensure that all City actions affecting the riverfront are consistent with established policy and subject to review; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that it is in the best interest of public health, safety, and welfare to implement clear directives for mapping, inventory, coordination, interim protections, and long-range riverfront planning to ensure responsible stewardship of this critical public asset;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, THAT:

**SECTION 1. Adoption of Intent.**

The City Council affirms its commitment to preserving the Rio Grande riverfront as a principal public asset and declares that the riverfront shall be managed, developed, and protected in accordance with the purposes and values reflected in the City's adopted policies and the Border Security Framework.

**SECTION 2. Preparation of Riverfront Boundary Information.**

The City Manager is directed, through the appropriate departments, to prepare a complete and accurate parcel-level map and corresponding boundary information identifying all City-owned riverfront properties, rights-of-way, trails, easements, and open spaces that form part of the Rio Grande Riverfront Parks and Public Access Corridor. A preliminary version of these materials shall be provided to the City Council within forty-five (45) days of the adoption of this Resolution, and all work shall be coordinated with the outside legal counsel retained pursuant to Council direction.

**SECTION 3. Inventory of Critical Infrastructure.**

The City Manager shall direct the Utilities Department, Public Works, Engineering, and Information Services to jointly identify and map all water, wastewater, stormwater, drainage, roadway, electrical, and communications infrastructure located within or affecting the riverfront corridor, and to document all operational and maintenance access requirements. A consolidated Critical Infrastructure Inventory shall be presented to the City Council within forty-five (45) days and shall be developed in consultation with outside legal counsel to support the City's regulatory, treaty, and eminent domain interests.

**SECTION 4. Interim Riverfront Protections.**

Until the City has fully implemented its riverfront protections and administrative procedures, no City department may convey, lease, or otherwise encumber riverfront property; grant any right-of-entry, easement, or license to an external governmental or private entity for work affecting riverfront property; or approve or recommend any project or activity that would materially impact public access, parkland, drainage or flood-control systems, or critical utilities along the riverfront, unless such action is first presented to the City Council following a preliminary review and recommendation by the City Manager.

**SECTION 5. Intergovernmental Coordination and Notification.**

The City Manager is directed to provide formal written notice to the appropriate federal and state agencies advising them of the City's riverfront protections and this Resolution, and to inform them that any external proposals, including federal project planning, must undergo City review for consistency with local flood, utility, environmental, and parkland standards. This notification shall be issued within five (5) days of adoption of this Resolution.

#### **SECTION 6. Riverfront Master Plan.**

The Planning and Zoning Department, in coordination with Parks and Recreation, Engineering, and other relevant departments, is directed to initiate a Riverfront Master Plan that will formalize long-term strategies for public access, recreation, ecological restoration, cultural preservation, and infrastructure planning. The plan shall also support the City's regulatory and legal posture in any future federal environmental review or eminent domain proceedings. A proposed planning schedule shall be submitted to the City Council within forty-five (45) days.

#### **SECTION 7. Administration Consistency Review Procedures.**

The City Manager shall develop interim administrative procedures to evaluate proposed external projects for their impacts on parkland, infrastructure, floodplain dynamics, circulation, and public access; to require interdepartmental review before any riverfront-related item is presented to the City Council; to establish documentation standards that support regulatory compliance and future legal review; and to ensure that all technical or expert input from external organizations is coordinated through the City Manager's Office. These procedures shall be issued within forty-five (45) days.

#### **SECTION 8. No Impairment of Existing Rights or Operations.**

Nothing in this Resolution shall impair existing City operations related to service or maintenance, previously granted easements or recorded rights, or the emergency access and public safety responsibilities of City departments.

#### **SECTION 9. Effective Date.**

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THIS \_\_\_\_  
DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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DR. VICTOR D. TREVINO  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MARIO MALDONADO, JR.  
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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DOANH T. NGUYEN  
CITY ATTORNEY