

CITY OF LAREDO

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, FORMALLY REQUESTING THAT THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ) CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE MID-REACH RIO GRANDE RIVER AND INCLUDE SAID ASSESSMENT IN THE TEXAS INTEGRATED REPORT OF SURFACE WATER QUALITY SUBMITTED BIENNIALLY TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA); AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) administers statewide water quality management programs designed to protect, maintain, and restore Texas water resources, including aquatic life, recreation, fishing, and drinking-water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Integrated Report evaluates the quality of surface waters in Texas and provides a critical tool for resource managers and state agencies in making informed decisions about water quality protection and restoration; and

WHEREAS, numerical criteria established in the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (TSWQS) provide the quantitative basis for evaluating water-quality conditions and assessing whether water bodies support their designated uses, and such assessments often rely on best professional judgment and site-specific conditions; and

WHEREAS, five (5) segments of the Rio Grande Below Amistad Reservoir, including the Mid-Reach segment adjacent to and downstream of Laredo, continue to report bacteria impairments related to recreational use, as documented in the 2024 Texas Integrated Report and carried forward into the current cycle due to insufficient data to advance management actions; and

WHEREAS, this stretch of the Rio Grande is currently classified under Category 5—meaning available data indicate that designated uses are not being supported and a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is required—and more specifically Category 5c, indicating that additional data and information must be collected or evaluated before a management strategy can be selected; and

WHEREAS, the absence of updated, site-specific scientific data impedes the development of effective state and federal strategies to address impairments in this critical waterway,

which is the sole source of drinking water for the City of Laredo and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the American Rivers Network has recently listed the Rio Grande—specifically the stretch below Laredo extending to the Gulf of Mexico—as the 5th Most Endangered River in 2025, citing extreme heat, prolonged drought, and outdated infrastructure as compounding threats to river stability and water supply; and

WHEREAS, given the increasing environmental, climatic, and hydrological pressures on the Rio Grande, the City of Laredo has a compelling interest in ensuring that TCEQ conducts a full, scientific, and contemporary assessment of the Mid-Reach Rio Grande to accurately quantify identified impairments and support the development of a viable management strategy; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Laredo wishes to directly request that TCEQ Administration include this assessment in its upcoming biennial Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality due to the urgency and importance of the issue;

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

Section 1. The City Council hereby formally requests that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) conduct a comprehensive, updated environmental and water-quality assessment of the Mid-Reach Rio Grande River, including but not limited to bacteria loadings, hydrological conditions, and any impairments relevant to recreation, aquatic life, and drinking-water supply.

Section 2. The City Council requests that TCEQ include the results of this assessment in the upcoming Texas Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality, submitted biennially to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to ensure the state’s principal drinking-water source for Laredo is properly monitored, documented, and prioritized.

Section 3. City Management is directed to transmit this Resolution directly to TCEQ Administration, including the Executive Director’s Office and Water Quality Division, and to undertake any additional steps necessary to ensure the City’s request is formally received and considered.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

DR. VICTOR D. TREVIÑO, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARIO MALDONADO, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DOANH T. NGUYEN
CITY ATTORNEY