

By: Creighton, Nichols

S.C.R. No. 34

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Among the most urgent issues facing Texas is the
2 recent prolonged drought that has resulted in a diminished
3 freshwater supply and the need to find alternative water sources;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Montgomery County is one area that is facing special
6 difficulties in sustaining an adequate water supply, not only
7 because of the drought, but also because of its increasing
8 population, which grew by 9.5 percent between 2010 and 2013, and its
9 need to comply with a mandate to reduce usage of the Gulf Coast
10 Aquifer by 30 percent by the year 2016; and

11 WHEREAS, Texas is estimated to have more than 2.7 billion
12 acre-feet of brackish groundwater, a crucial option for an
13 alternative water supply, and desalination techniques can reduce
14 the saline content of those brackish supplies to meet freshwater
15 standards; and

16 WHEREAS, The City of El Paso and Fort Bliss have established a
17 successful desalination program at the Kay Bailey Hutchison
18 Desalination Plant, which can produce up to 27.5 million gallons of
19 potable water each day from brackish water; employing a similar
20 desalination method, Montgomery County could replenish and
21 maintain a sufficient water supply through its access to brackish
22 groundwater sources; and

23 WHEREAS, Treating the abundance of brackish groundwater in
24 the area to comply with freshwater regulations has the potential to

1 provide Montgomery County residents with sufficient water
2 resources while alleviating pressure on freshwater resources, and
3 this innovative process is indeed deserving of further research;
4 now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
6 hereby direct the Texas Water Development Board to conduct a
7 feasibility study on the use of desalinated brackish groundwater
8 from brackish groundwater sources for water supply in Montgomery
9 County; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That this study be completed no later than January
11 1, 2018; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the board submit a full report, including its
13 findings and recommendations, to the 85th Texas Legislature, the
14 county judge of Montgomery County, and the county commissioners of
15 Montgomery County no later than June 1, 2018.