

1 beneath; his son Paul, who succeeded him, established the Aquarena
2 Springs amusement park on the property, and in 1950 he built an
3 underwater theater, where young women known as "aquamaids" staged
4 exhibitions of synchronized swimming and underwater ballet; at the
5 peak of its popularity, the park drew up to 350,000 visitors every
6 year and was featured in *Life* magazine, with the submerged theater
7 making it to the cover of *Popular Mechanics*; in time, the show came
8 to include Glurpo, a pipe-smoking clown, and a swimming pig named
9 Ralph; and

10 WHEREAS, The performances continued until the 1990s, when
11 Texas State University acquired the park and set a new course for
12 the property; today, the site hosts the Meadows Center for Water and
13 the Environment, which conducts research and educational programs
14 focused on promoting sustainable water management and
15 environmental stewardship; the critical nature of its work is
16 underscored by the fact that the Edwards Aquifer supplies drinking
17 water to nearly two million people and serves as the principal
18 source of water for agriculture, industry, and recreation
19 throughout the region; the aquifer system sustains over 40 highly
20 adapted species, a number of which are either threatened or
21 endangered, including several found in the San Marcos springs and a
22 stretch of river just below; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2016, the Mermaid Society of Texas, headquartered
24 in San Marcos, was created to foster harmony between environmental
25 sustainability, the arts, and economic growth; the society has
26 established an annual Mermaid SPLASH festival, which includes a
27 parade, the Mermaid Art Ball, and the riverside Aqua Faire

1 celebration; moreover, the city has funded mermaid-themed public
2 art through a program supported by the hotel occupancy tax; among
3 the works underwritten by this initiative are murals and a series of
4 seven-foot-tall statues, each one decorated by a different artist;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, By adopting the mermaid as a symbol of the city, the
7 people of San Marcos are encouraging public interest in the natural
8 environment and highlighting the central role their community is
9 playing in preserving the water resources of the Lone Star State;
10 now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
12 hereby designate the city of San Marcos as the official Mermaid
13 Capital of Texas; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
15 [391.003\(e\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
16 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
17 passed by the legislature.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 9 was adopted by the Senate on April 19, 2021, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 9 was adopted by the House on May 8, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 117, Nays 21, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor