

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.C.R. No. 9
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 2, 2021; March 11, 2021,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Administration;
 1-4 April 13, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 13, 2021,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.C.R. No. 9 By: Huffman

1-17 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-18 WHEREAS, For thousands of years, the mermaid has been one of
 1-19 the most striking symbols of humanity's connection with the natural
 1-20 world, and over the past century, this legendary figure has come to
 1-21 represent the city of San Marcos and its special relationship to the
 1-22 water resources of Central Texas; and

1-23 WHEREAS, The story of the mermaid in San Marcos begins with
 1-24 the abundant springs that every day release 100 million gallons of
 1-25 freshwater from the Edwards Aquifer into the San Marcos River;
 1-26 considered a sacred place by Native Americans and regarded as the
 1-27 creation site of the Coahuiltecons, the springs have drawn people
 1-28 to their banks for more than 11,500 years, making this area what is
 1-29 thought to be one of the oldest continually inhabited sites in North
 1-30 America; and

1-31 WHEREAS, In 1849, Edward Burleson, a former vice president of
 1-32 the Republic of Texas, dammed the headwaters of the San Marcos,
 1-33 thereby creating Spring Lake; over the ensuing years, the water
 1-34 from the lake powered gristmills, sawmills, an ice factory, and an
 1-35 electric light works; the San Marcos River also constituted an
 1-36 important water stop along the Chisholm Trail; and

1-37 WHEREAS, A. B. Rogers bought the Burleson homestead in the
 1-38 1920s and built a resort hotel on the shore of the lake; he later
 1-39 began offering rides in glass-bottomed boats that allowed visitors
 1-40 to see through the crystal clear water to the bubbling springs
 1-41 beneath; his son Paul, who succeeded him, established the Aquarena
 1-42 Springs amusement park on the property, and in 1950 he built an
 1-43 underwater theater, where young women known as "aquamaids" staged
 1-44 exhibitions of synchronized swimming and underwater ballet; at the
 1-45 peak of its popularity, the park drew up to 350,000 visitors every
 1-46 year and was featured in *Life* magazine, with the submerged theater
 1-47 making it to the cover of *Popular Mechanics*; in time, the show came
 1-48 to include Glurpo, a pipe-smoking clown, and a swimming pig named
 1-49 Ralph; and

1-50 WHEREAS, The performances continued until the 1990s, when
 1-51 Texas State University acquired the park and set a new course for
 1-52 the property; today, the site hosts the Meadows Center for Water and
 1-53 the Environment, which conducts research and educational programs
 1-54 focused on promoting sustainable water management and
 1-55 environmental stewardship; the critical nature of its work is
 1-56 underscored by the fact that the Edwards Aquifer supplies drinking
 1-57 water to nearly two million people and serves as the principal
 1-58 source of water for agriculture, industry, and recreation
 1-59 throughout the region; the aquifer system sustains over 40 highly
 1-60 adapted species, a number of which are either threatened or

2-1 endangered, including several found in the San Marcos springs and a
2-2 stretch of river just below; and

2-3 WHEREAS, In 2016, the Mermaid Society of Texas, headquartered
2-4 in San Marcos, was created to foster harmony between environmental
2-5 sustainability, the arts, and economic growth; the society has
2-6 established an annual Mermaid SPLASH festival, which includes a
2-7 parade, the Mermaid Art Ball, and the riverside Aqua Faire
2-8 celebration; moreover, the city has funded mermaid-themed public
2-9 art through a program supported by the hotel occupancy tax; among
2-10 the works underwritten by this initiative are murals and a series of
2-11 seven-foot-tall statues, each one decorated by a different artist;
2-12 and

2-13 WHEREAS, By adopting the mermaid as a symbol of the city, the
2-14 people of San Marcos are encouraging public interest in the natural
2-15 environment and highlighting the central role their community is
2-16 playing in preserving the water resources of the Lone Star State;
2-17 now, therefore, be it

2-18 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-19 hereby designate the city of San Marcos as the official Mermaid
2-20 Capital of Texas; and, be it further

2-21 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
2-22 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
2-23 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
2-24 passed by the legislature.

2-25

* * * * *