

**Strawman Outline for Austin Water Resource Planning Task Force Final
Report
June 11, 2014**

Total Length = 5 pages, excluding appendices

I. Introduction

- a. Austin's ongoing drought is a reminder of the susceptibility of our sole water source to prolonged drought
- b. We know our region is likely to endure more drought in the future, and to become drier over time, bringing less inflow to the Highland Lakes from local precipitation and tributary rivers from West Texas
- c. We also know that higher temperatures are likely to cause greater evaporation from our lakes, making them a less dependable tool for water storage
- d. Austin is growing and expected to double in population in xx years
- e. The City of Austin must take immediate steps to protect our current water source in this time of drought
- f. We also need to seize upon this opportunity to put in place a cultural shift in how we use and provide water so that Austin can retain its economic competitiveness and quality of life
- g. This report is the Task Force's recommendations on immediate actions that should be taken by Austin Water Utility and the City Council to mitigate our ongoing drought and to catalyze investment in a water-resilient economy
- h. By prudently executing the recommended near-term strategies in this report, the City of Austin can effectively manage the ongoing drought
- i. The present drought is unprecedented, and we understand that we should plan to anticipate a future in which it persists and even intensifies. Should this occur, the City of Austin may need to invest in additional water supplies or storage beyond our jurisdiction.
- j. In addition, given climate change projections of higher temperatures and lower precipitation, it is likely that Austin will need to invest in additional water storage options to augment the Highland Lakes.
- k. During times of crisis we may be tempted to execute options that might not otherwise be consistent with community values.
- l. For these reasons, we have offered a decision matrix for use by Austin's leadership to evaluate new supply and storage options
- m. We also offer to City Council our view on principles that should guide our community's decisions in how we manage and secure water for the future.

II. Guiding Principles for Austin's Water Choices – *Castleberry, Perales*

- a. Sustainability
- b. Good Neighbor
- c. Imagine Austin Plan
- d. Others?

III. Austin's Water Needs – *Ross*

IV. Recommended Near-Term Actions – *Schuster, Robbins, Walker*

- a. Task Force's recommendations on immediate actions that should be taken by Austin Water Utility and the City Council to mitigate our ongoing drought and to catalyze investment in a resilient water system
- b. These actions should be pursued comprehensively to secure our existing water supply over the coming 36 months. The Task Force does not regard any of these options as optional.
- c. These are consistent with xyz scenario run by Austin Water Utility's consultants for inflows to the Highland Lakes and have been chosen to maintain Highland Lakes above 400,000 ac-ft, the trigger that would put Austin into Stage 4 drought with mandatory elimination of all outdoor watering.
- d. Demand Management Actions
- e. Supply Management Actions
- f. Potential Separate Category of Codes/Ordinances related to Decentralization?

V. Developing a Culture of Water Stewardship Innovation – *Mason, Leurig*

- a. Becoming the Most Water-Efficient Community in Texas
- b. Tapping into the Cityscape as a Water Supply Source
- c. Leading a New Era of Regional Cooperation
- d. *Generally these sections may be where we advance ideas of development bringing water, advancing codes & ordinances that allow us to make better use of our precipitation and centralized water supply and cooperation with LCRA, CO River basin users and neighboring counties—the stuff that falls outside of the decision matrix or Recommended Near-Term Actions*

VI. Decision Matrix for Near-, Mid- and Long-Range Options – *Task Force*