

Austin Neighborhoods Council

*Established 1973 • Strength Through Unity
Post Office Box 176 • Austin, Texas 78767*

July 23, 2009

Dear Mayor Leffingwell, Mayor Pro Tem and Council Members,

The Austin Neighborhoods Council is an umbrella organization representing 91 neighborhood associations across the city. The following resolution regarding Water Treatment Plan #4 was approved at the ANC General Membership meeting on July 22, 2009.

WHEREAS, Austin has experienced 7 years of flat to declining peak day demands with the community responding to calls for water conservation in severe drought conditions last summer by reducing the peak day demand to 219 million gallons, well below the previous high of 240 million gallons in 2001; and

WHEREAS, this reduction in peak demand pushes the potential need for a new water treatment plant many years into the future; and

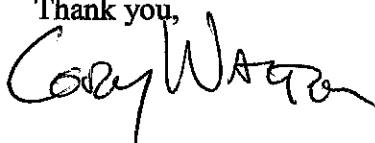
WHEREAS, in the spirit of Austin's progressive stance and leadership on climate protection and energy efficiency and given that water conservation is an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Austin needs first and foremost to set serious and aggressive standards for water conservation; and

WHEREAS, city staff has estimated that Austin saves about \$14 million dollars for every year that construction of a new water plant is postponed and a small fraction of the money saved could be invested instead in conservation, reuse and reducing water loss from system leaks and breaks; and

WHEREAS, Austin is embarking on a new comprehensive planning process, and water policy is a crucial element in a comprehensive plan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Austin Neighborhoods Council urges the City Council to postpone any further expenditures on Water Treatment Plant #4 until the city can incorporate new demand figures and potential water conservation strategies into the city's comprehensive plan.

Thank you,



Cory Walton
President, Austin Neighborhoods Council