

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Rebecca Gleason, Assistant City Manager  
Date: July 29, 2022  
Subject: Weekly Memo, July 25 – July 29, 2022



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## Personnel Updates

The Annual Employee Appreciation Lunch will be held on August 5, 12 pm – 2 pm at the Convention Center. This will include years of service awards, door prizes, and a steak lunch with all the fixings. Council is invited to attend. Please note the corrected time.

## Upcoming Training

Below are future training opportunities. If you are interested in attending please notify the City Secretary and she will take care of the registration for you.

### TML-TAMCC Newly Elected City Officials' Orientation

Date: August 11 - August 12  
Time: All Day  
Location: San Antonio

### TML Region 10 Meeting

Date: September 20  
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Location: Williamson County Expo Center  
Taylor, Texas

### TML – Annual Conference and Exhibition **ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE REGISTERED**

Date: October 5 – October 7  
Time: All Day  
Location: San Antonio

### TML Economic Development Conference

Date: November 17 – November 18  
Time: All Day  
Location: Hyatt Lost Pines

## Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings

August 9 at 12:00 pm- Gravity District, Aerial Studio, 201 Hunters Crossing Blvd., #14  
August 11 at 3:00 pm- River Loop Sidewalk Project, Coffee Dog on Loop 150  
August 16 at 10:00 am- Right at Home, 102 Commercial Drive  
August 19 at 2:00 pm- Greater Texas Credit Union, 115 Hunters Crossing Blvd

## Library News

The summer reading program Oceans of Possibilities wrapped up in a big way last Saturday with the Tropical End of Summer Party. The 372 people who attended the celebration enjoyed a variety of games, refreshments, and family fun. It was a fantastic way to end the summer at the library. Our statistics for the program are equally as great! 869 registrations, 476 (55%) completed the program by reading 500 minutes, 681 books, donated by the Friends of the Library, were given away for completing the program, and more the 1,700,000 minutes were read during the 8-week program. As a comparison, last year's stats were 812 registrations, 53% completion, 493 books given out, and 1,334,723 minutes were read. A more comprehensive report of the summer activities will be available later in August.



## Police Department

This week, the Bastrop Police Department implemented the department's first digital officer tracking software via LEFTA Systems. The department can now document, tabulate, review, and monitor an officer's conduct and behavior in a single robust package. Specifically, this software tracks; field training, use of force occurrences, professional standards investigations, field contacts and profiling, conduct tracking, and has a built-in early warning system to help identify officers needing intervention to assist them in managing the stress of policing. This project will allow the Police Department to continue our efforts to advance effective and accountable policing.

## Commercial Certificates of Occupancies July 14-25, 2022

- The Gym in Lost Pines LLC – 603 Chestnut Street
- Suites His and Hers Barbershop Salon – 398 Old Austin Highway
- David F Bragg P.C. – 75 Loop 150 West, F
- Southwest Engineers, Inc. – 704 Main Street, 101
- Casa De Oracion Bastrop – 1902 Chestnut Street

## Bike Rack Dedication

On Thursday, July 28, the Bastrop County Rotary Club donated a custom bike rack in the shape of the Old Iron Bridge to the City of Bastrop Main Street Program. The bike rack was fabricated by two BISD Alumni, Garrison Boral and Alex Farenthold, who are students at Texas State Technical College. Alex was the recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship at TSTC from the Rotary Club where his support of this project was a scholarship criterion. On Thursday, the Main Street Program hosted a dedication at the Library, where the bike rack will be placed. Below is a photo from the dedication that include Alex, Garrison, their families, Rotary Club, BISD, TSTC Professor Michael Smith, Mayor Schroder, and City Staff.



## Water and Wastewater

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality issued a Notice of Violation Letter to the City of Bastrop dated June 14, 2022, stating that the City violated the maximum contaminate level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes for Quarter 2, 2022. Trihalomethanes are a disinfection product which is created when chlorine oxidizes organic matter in the water. The City's sample site returned a value of 0.0577 mg/L for the sampling period. However, compliance values are based on a locational running annual average (LRAA) and are required to be  $\leq 0.08$  mg/L. The City's current LRAA is 0.081 mg/L.

The City's water is still safe to drink. When establishing MCLs, the Environmental Protection Agency assumes that people who drink that water consume two liters (about half a gallon) of it every day for seventy years (approximately one lifetime).

Although the violation occurred in a small portion of the water system, the City is required to notify all customers. The City will be sending out the required public notices with supplemental information (attached) to customers via their utility bills, and by hand-delivery to apartment complexes, hotels, etc.

## River Loop Project

Council Member Crouch sent the below questions concerning the River Loop Project and upcoming Ribbon Cutting. We thought it may be helpful to share with all of Council in case you are also receiving questions.

1. Will the loop be open to the public directly after the ribbon cutting? **The Loop is currently open to the public.**

2. Will all the ADA ramps be installed along HWY 71 service road? ADA ramps are required to be installed at road crossings but not driveway crossings. Pedestrian ramps have been installed at Eskew and Perkins and are complete.

3. Will the sidewalk be completed at Water Street to the sidewalk on the north side of the bridge? The River Loop Project extended the Main Street Improvements south to just south of Ferry Park where TxDOT will connect after their construction is finished (currently used as staging/access area).

4. Will there be mileage markers be placed on the route? There were no planned mileage markers as part of the River Loop project.

5 Will there be banners or some cleanup at both ends of the old iron bridge making it look a little more inviting? There are currently no plans to place banners on the Old Iron Bridge. I liked the suggestion when you brought it up in your July 14<sup>th</sup> email, so I wrote it on the list to revisit in August after we hear about the Old Iron Bridge grant. I believe it could be a powerful way to communicate the status/timelines around the bridge, but we will not know enough to create such a piece until we hear about that grant.

6. Were you aware of the homeless encampment under the west end of the old iron bridge? No Sir, we were not aware of the encampment. The Police Department looked into it and said that it appears that it was abandoned some time ago, but the mess remains. We've asked the public works team to visit the site to determine who owns the property (private, TxDOT, or City) and try to get the area more presentable.

7. Will the entire route be swept and cleaned off debris? Debris due to construction activities has been removed. Ongoing maintenance will be performed by the public works team.

8. Between Water Street and Pecan along the sidewalk there is an open trench that needs to be backfilled? This is outside the limits of the River Loop Project and looks to be part of the TxDOT improvements. I have asked public works to look into it and confirm TxDOT's plans.

## **Special Events**

We have a special Farm Street Opry night in store for you! Join us on August 4 as we get "Lost in the 50's". We'll be featuring traditional country music with The Farm Street Opry Band, and rock n' roll classics by The Johnathan's! Take a stroll around the larger dance floor and enjoy great music from the bygone era of the Golden Oldies....Elvis, Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison & more! Doors open at 5:30 pm to and the show starts at 7:00 pm.

### *Bastrop Homecoming*

The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Bastrop Homecoming and Rodeo will be held August 3-6 at Mayfest Park. This annual event offers 4 nights of rodeo events with live music, food vendors, class reunions, a grand parade, and more. The parade will be August 6 at 10:00 am. If you would like to ride the city float, please contact Ann.

## **Parks**

The Birding Blinds in Bob Bryant Park received through a grant are complete, please enjoy the below photographs.



## **Future Agenda Items**

August 04, 2022

- Special Council Meeting – Executive Session – recruiting of new city manager

August 09, 2022

- Consider Resolution to adopt a tax rate for Fiscal Year 2022-2023
- Presentation of Quarterly Report for April – June 2022
- Consider ordinance related to utilities and fee schedule

August 23, 2022

- Purchasing Policy, Financial Management Policy, Investment Policy
- Pearl River Zoning
- Parks & Recreation Master Plan Award

## **Attachments**

- W/WW Response Memo
- TML Legislative Update Number #30

**Mandatory Language for a Maximum Contaminant Level  
Violation MCL, LRAA / TTHM**



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the CITY OF BASTROP TX0110001 that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for total trihalomethanes to be 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on locational running annual average (LRAA) and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for total trihalomethanes indicates a compliance value in quarter two 2022 of 0.081 mg/L for DBP2-01.

Trihalomethanes are a group of volatile organic compounds that are formed when chlorine, added to the water during the treatment process for disinfection, reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in the water.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidney, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

You do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue:

Reducing the organic material in raw water through filtration, optimizing disinfection processes, administering directional flushing throughout the water distribution system, development of capital improvement projects to replace or improve aging infrastructure and water treatment/distribution methods.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact James Wilson at 512-332-8962.

Posted /Delivered on: 7/20/2022

TO: City of Bastrop Water Consumers  
From: James Wilson, City of Bastrop W/WW Superintendent  
Date: July 20, 2022  
Subject: TTHM Violation



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I am writing to you today in response to the City's recent Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requires public water systems to distribute the attached Public Notice that contains very specific, mandated language in cases such as these. I believe the mandated language can leave many customers with unanswered questions and/or concerns, most of which I hope to answer below.

When Chlorine is added to water with organic material, THMs are formed. Residual chlorine molecules react with this harmless organic material to form THMs.

The quantity of byproduct formed is determined by several factors, such as the amount and type of organic material present in water, temperature, PH, chlorine dosage contact time available for chlorine, and bromide concentration in the water.

**What is the city doing to reduce THMs in the system?**

- A) Reducing the organic materials in raw water through filtration.
- B) Optimizing disinfection processes.
- C) Administering directional flushing throughout the water distribution system
- D) Development of capital improvement projects to replace or improve aging infrastructure and water treatment/distribution methods.

**Why use Chlorine:**

Without adequate disinfection of our water supplies, the health risks from micro-organisms would far outweigh the risk from THMs. Drinking water is disinfected with chlorine to kill bacteria and viruses that can cause serious illness and deaths. In fact, chlorination of drinking water has virtually eliminated typhoid fever, cholera, and many other diseases: it represents one of the greatest achievements of public health protection.

**The area affected:**

The area affected was zone 1, which is the older part of town from Mesquite to Hwy 71 and Hwy 95 to the river.

**TCEQ Public Drinking Water Section, rev: August 12, 2005**

Trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs) form when disinfectants are added to drinking water systems to kill potentially dangerous microorganism. The added disinfectants react with naturally occurring organics in the water to form other chemicals, including THMs and HAAs. Because long-term exposures to these chemicals in our water may result in adverse health effects, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established standards (the MCLs) for them. When they exceed their respective MCLs in drinking water, your provider is required to notify you. Notification is not intended to suggest that you or your family members will be harmed by the detected levels, but instead is meant to keep you informed.

Exceedance of MCLs also informs the water supplier that action is warranted to reduce the concentrations of those chemicals in the water system.

**The required public notice language for these violations includes the statements:**

- This is not an emergency
- You do not need to use an alternative water supply

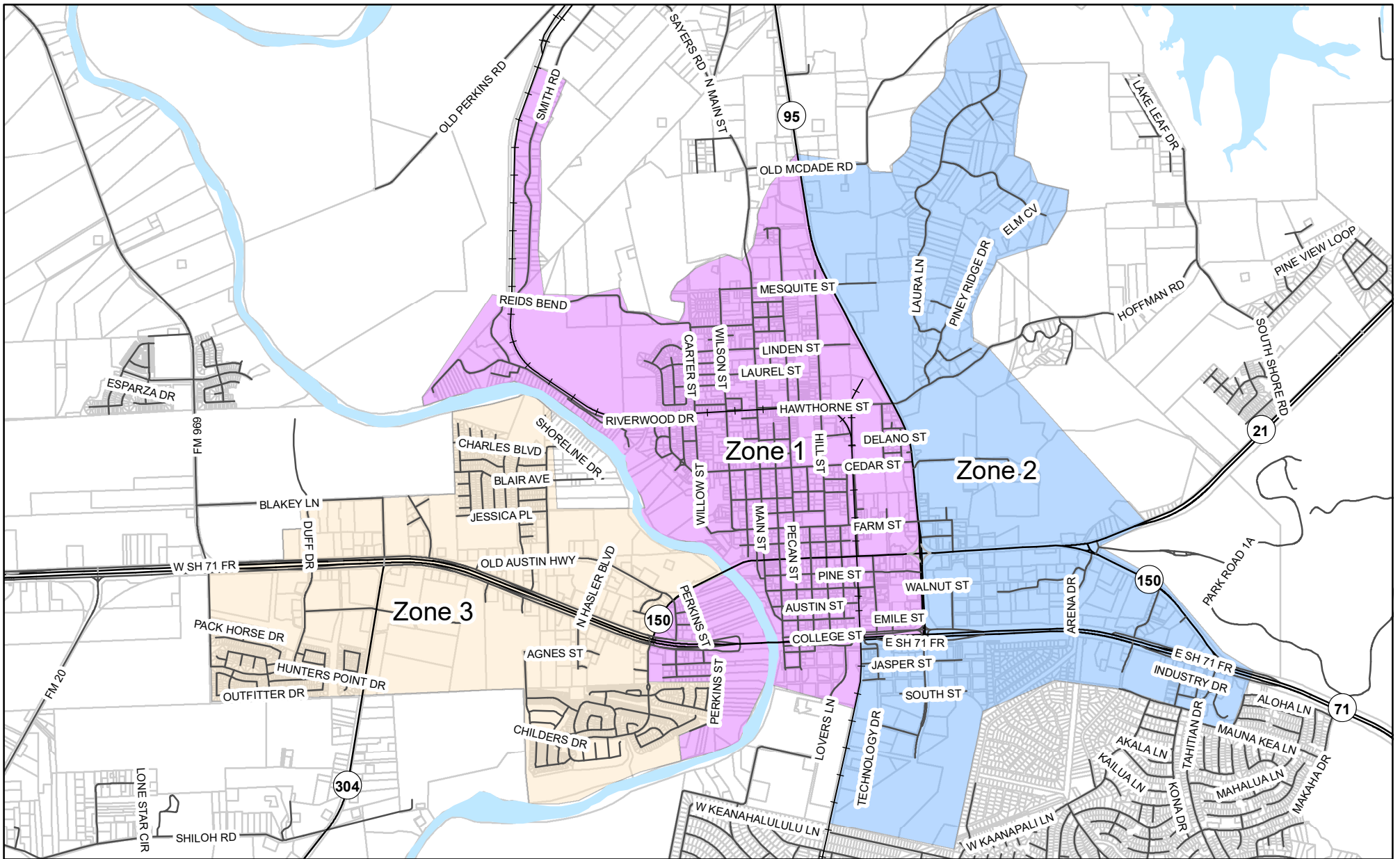
When the EPA establishes the MCL for chemical that is known or suspected to cause adverse health effects from long-term exposures, it assumes that the people who drink that water consume two liters (about half a gallon) of it every day for seventy years (approximately one lifetime).

I want you, the consumer, to understand that the City staff remain committed to taking the necessary steps in providing you with safe, palatable water. Should you feel that you are still left with unanswered questions, you may contact me directly via email at [jwilson@cityofbastrop.org](mailto:jwilson@cityofbastrop.org), or by phone at (512)332-8962. I may not be able to answer immediately, but I promise to return your call or answer your emailed questions as soon as possible.

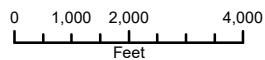
Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jan B. Dil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".





## City of Bastrop Water System Zones



Date: 2/18/2021

The accuracy and precision of this cartographic data is limited and should be used for information /planning purposes only. This data does not replace surveys conducted by registered Texas land surveyors nor does it constitute an "official" verification of zoning, land use classification, or other classification set forth in local, state, or federal regulatory processes. The City of Bastrop, nor any of its employees, do not make any warranty of merchantability and fitness for particular purpose, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any such information, nor does it represent that its use would not infringe upon privately owned rights.



July 29, 2022  
Number 30

## **Treasury Releases Updated SLFRF Reporting Guidance**

The Treasury Department released Version 3.1 of its State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) Project and Expenditure Reporting Guide. Prior Treasury guidance required a city using the standard allowance for revenue replacement to make a one-time, irrevocable election to take the standard allowance on their April 30<sup>th</sup> filing. That deadline has now been extended. According to Treasury, “[b]ased on recipient feedback and in anticipation of additional questions related to the revenue loss election, Treasury has decided to keep this portion of the reporting portal open for recipients in upcoming reporting cycles, which will permit recipients to update their prior revenue loss election, as appropriate.” In other words, cities who failed to elect to use the standard allowance by the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline can now choose to use it. Treasury indicates that they will keep this option open until April 2023.

The updated SLFRF Project and Expenditure Reporting Guide is available [here](#). The discussion related to these deadline changes can be found starting on page 42.

## **Federal Infrastructure Bill Update**

*In November 2021, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law. The IIJA is altogether a \$1.2 trillion bill that will invest in the nation's core infrastructure priorities including roads, bridges, rail, transit, airports, ports, energy transmission, water systems, and broadband.*

*The League will monitor state and federal agencies and work with the National League of Cities (NLC) to access the latest information relating to the IIJA. We will be providing periodic updates in the Legislative Update on resources for Texas cities on how to access IIJA funding for local infrastructure projects.*

### **U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)**

Updating a previous item, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) [announced](#) the availability of over \$573 million in grant funding for the competitive [Railroad Crossing Elimination Program](#), which “will help improve safety, eliminate lengthy delays at railroad crossings in communities across the country, and ultimately lower the costs of transporting goods, making them more affordable for American families.” At least 20% of funding will go to rural and tribal areas, and political subdivisions, including cities, are eligible applicants. Interested city officials can access a [fact sheet](#) on the grant program and the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. CST, October 4, 2022. Interested city officials can also access an FRA webinar from July 14 on the program [here](#).

### **National League of Cities (NLC)**

The [Local Infrastructure Hub](#), sponsored by NLC and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, among others, is now live. The Hub is designed to help city officials navigate the funding programs made available by the IIJA. Interested city officials can sign up for the mailing list, attend virtual learning events, and access articles and other resources on some of the key IIJA funding opportunities. [Upcoming events](#) include:

- August 2: Reconnecting Communities + Equity: Engagement & Environmental Justice
- August 16: Focusing on Broadband

NLC recently [published an article](#) titled “America’s Small Cities Aren’t on the Infrastructure Sidelines,” highlighting survey data from small cities about use of the IIJA for local infrastructure needs. The article includes examples of how small cities plan to use IIJA funding for water and transportation projects.

## **Red-Light Camera Data Required by TxDOT**

Each city that still operates a red-light camera system must continue to compile and submit annual reports showing the number and type of crashes that have occurred at the intersection to the Texas

Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The required data must be provided to TxDOT by October 28, 2022. More information on the reporting requirements can be found [here](#).

With the passage of [H.B. 1631](#) in the 2019 session, cities are no longer permitted to install or operate red-light cameras. The law contained an exception that allowed cities with an ordinance enacted before May 7, 2019 that entered into a contract for the administration and enforcement of red-light cameras to continue operation until the expiration date specified in the contract.

## **House and Senate Committee Interim Hearings**

The Texas House and Senate Committees are underway studying interim charges outlined by Speaker Phelan and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick.

Below is a full list of committee hearings set to hear certain city-related charges. All hearings will be held at the Texas Capitol unless otherwise indicated. If a committee has newly posted notice and was not included in last week's edition of the *Legislative Update*, it is indicated as such.

### **House Committee on Natural Resources**

The committee will meet on Tuesday, August 23 at 10:00 a.m. to hear the following interim charges:

Review the adequacy and efficiency of current mechanisms used to compensate water right holders when the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality temporarily transfers a water right under an emergency authorization. Make appropriate recommendations for the protection of private property rights of water right holders.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and submit electronic comment, can be found [here](#).

### **House Committee on Natural Resources**

The committee will meet on Wednesday, August 24 at 10:00 a.m. to hear the following interim charges:

Examine the condition of Texas' water and flood mitigation infrastructure capabilities and consider future infrastructure needs. Evaluate sustainable funding sources to provide for water project development and infrastructure repair and replacement. Examine and make recommendations for cost-effective improvements that enhance the state's available water supply.

*Note: the desalination portion of this charge will be held at a later date.*

Examine the state's groundwater management policy and regulatory framework. Include a review of large-scale water transfers and their impact on groundwater resources. Make appropriate recommendations for legislation or state agency action to:

- Promote the achievement of planning goals under Chapter 36, Water Code, including those involving desired future conditions;
- Provide adequate transparency to the permit application process;
- Further the state's groundwater quality protection efforts, including an assessment of risks posed to groundwater by abandoned and deteriorated water wells and orphan oil and gas wells; and
- Promote conservation and waste prevention.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and submit electronic comment, can be found [here](#).

**\*NEW\* House Committee on Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services**

The committee will meet on Thursday, August 25 at 11:00 a.m. to hear the following interim charge:

Review the impact of investments by public retirement systems of their endowment and other trust funds in businesses and funds owned or controlled by the Russian government or Russian nationals, and determine the need for investment restrictions. Consider the impact of any proposed investment restrictions on fund performance.

Information on the hearing, including how to register and submit electronic comment, can be found [here](#).

**Don't Forget: Resolutions for 2022 Annual Conference Due  
August 22**

Resolutions for consideration at the Annual Conference are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on **August 22, 2022**. The TML Constitution provides that resolutions must be submitted by any member city, TML region, or TML affiliate to the TML headquarters 45 calendar days prior to the first day of the Annual Conference.

The League's advocacy efforts are based on a legislative program that is developed by member city officials in two ways.

First, a member city, TML region, or TML affiliate may submit a resolution for consideration at the business meeting of each year's Annual Conference. Each city is asked to provide one delegate to serve as its liaison at the meeting. The representatives will be briefed on the content of the resolutions and given a chance to discuss and vote on whether they merit inclusion in the legislative

program. The resolutions form the basis of a fixed legislative program, under which – each session – modifications to the program will be made only if needed.

Second, member city officials can participate in the League’s Municipal Policy Summit during the summer of 2022. The report of the Summit takes the form of a resolution that is submitted to the Annual Conference in interim years. The summit participants have been appointed by the TML President based on volunteers and others chosen to balance the demographics of the TML membership at large.

Details on the submission process can be found [here](#).

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