RESOLUTION 2007-R-41

WHEREAS the City of Austin (COA) and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) are the two largest holders of water rights in the Colorado River basin, and COA is the largest single user of firm water in the Colorado River basin, and

WHEREAS COA and LCRA are considering an agreement which would form a "water partnership" which in turn would allow the two entities to jointly manage their water resources for their mutual benefit and would also settle certain legal disputes before the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) between the two entities, and

WHEREAS part of this agreement would restrict the use of alternative water supplies by COA (other than LCRA) by forcing COA to pay twice for water obtained from such alternative water sources; once for the alternate supply and again to LCRA as if the water had come from LCRA, thereby precluding the use of any alternative water supplier by COA, and

WHEREAS this agreement will increase the COA dependence on the LCRA for water, and,

WHEREAS most of the major cities in Texas use groundwater conjunctively with surface water, either as a primary source (San Antonio, El Paso) or as a secondary source (Houston, Odessa), while Austin uses only surface water, and,

WHEREAS there are several groundwater source opportunities in the counties near the COA, and these opportunities are available to COA at a price competitive with LCRA's price for water, and

WHEREAS the use of a supplemental groundwater source by COA would help take the pressure off of the diminishing surface water supplies of LCRA and COA and would help postpone the lowering of lake levels in the Highland Lakes reservoirs brought about by the rapid growth of population in the LCRA water service area.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Village of Volente opposes any agreement by the COA that would restrain COA from using alternative sources of groundwater that might otherwise help relieve the increasingly heavy demand for surface water from Lake Travis due to the rapid population growth in Travis and Williamson Counties.

Passed and approved this 17 day of July, 2007 by a vote of 3 for 0 opposed and 1 abstain.

Jan Yenawine, Mayor

Attest:

Jennifer Zufelt, City Secretary