

PROCLAMATION NO. 2026-05-70

**A PROCLAMATION OF CITY OF ROCKPORT MAYOR LOWELL
TIMOTHY JAYROE DECLARING A WATER SHORTAGE
EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the City of Rockport is a home rule municipality in Aransas County, Texas that has a water utility that serves approximately 10,000 retail connections inside and outside the corporate limits of Rockport; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockport, Texas, is responsible for providing safe and adequate water to all residents, businesses, and public institutions within its jurisdiction and service retail water service area; and

WHEREAS, the City is receives its water from the San Patricio Municipal Water District who purchases its water from the City of Corpus Christi; and

WHEREAS, there exists a critical and severe shortage of potable water resulting from prolonged drought condition and low hydrologic deficits being experienced across the area from where Rockport receives its primary source of water; and

WHEREAS, the City of Corpus Christi, the primary source of Rockport's potable water, has indicated that water resources may be depleted by November 2026 which will affect the inability to meet water supply needs; and

WHEREAS, without available water from the City of Corpus Christi, Rockport's water supply will fall to levels insufficient to meet the essential needs of the community, including drinking water, sanitation, fire suppression, and public health requirements; and

WHEREAS, current drought conditions, declining reservoir levels, and projected supply shortfalls indicate that, without immediate action to conserve, manage, and supplement available water resources, the Rockport's public water supply system is at risk of failure, thereby requiring prompt emergency measures to protect public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the water emergency poses an immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Rockport, and poses a risk of serious harm if not addressed on an emergency basis; and

WHEREAS, normal municipal resources and procedures are insufficient to respond to the full scope of this emergency without additional powers, resources, and coordination; and

WHEREAS, the City is pursuing professional engineering services to find a solution to the state of emergency which such plans may include groundwater well development and a water treatment system to stabilize and strengthen its future water supply, but construction and financing timelines will prevent those projects from being operational by the end of 2026; and

WHEREAS, immediate and extraordinary measures must be taken to prepare for and respond to this emergency situation, and that the declaration of a local disaster will enable the City to access emergency assistance, technical support, and funding including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Office of the Governor, and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code authorizes the presiding officer of a governing body of a political subdivision to declare a local state of disaster when the occurrence of a disaster is imminent or has occurred; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Rockport has been notified and this Proclamation shall be confirmed by the City Council at its earliest practicable meeting in accordance with applicable law;

WHEREAS, this declaration shall be submitted to the Office of the Governor of Texas, The Honorable Greg Abbott, to request state-level assistance and coordination of additional resources to address the City's water shortage emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Rockport, Texas, has determined that immediate and extraordinary measures must be taken to ensure the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of city residents and all its retail customers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ROCKPORT, TEXAS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 418 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE AND THE CITY'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCES:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The recitals provided above are hereby adopted as findings of fact related to this declaration and are hereby incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. Disaster Declaration. A Local State of Disaster is hereby declared for the City of Rockport, Texas, due to a critical water supply emergency.

SECTION 3. Publicity and Filing. In accordance with Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed immediately with the City Secretary, the Aransas County Clerk, and certified copies shall be transmitted to the Office of the Governor, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the Texas Water Development Board.

SECTION 4. Rockport's Emergency Management Plan. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration activates the City of Rockport Emergency Management Plan and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the plan.

SECTION 5. State and Federal Assistance and Coordination. The Mayor hereby requests that the Governor of Texas and appropriate state agencies provide emergency assistance, including but not limited to: emergency water supplies, deployment of technical resources, and financial assistance. The City is further authorized to apply for all available state and federal

emergency relief funding. The City Manager and designated staff are authorized to coordinate directly with the Texas Department of Emergency Management, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Water Development Board, and the Office of the Governor to obtain emergency funding, regulatory flexibility, and technical assistance necessary to maintain reliable public water service.

SECTION 6. Emergency Procurement. The City Manager and Emergency Management Director are authorized to procure goods, services, and equipment necessary to respond to this emergency without adherence to standard procurement timelines, in accordance with applicable law. Specifically, Texas Local Government Code § 252.022(a)(2) provides that the City may procure goods and services necessary to preserve and protect the public health and safety without the standard competitive bidding procedures for the duration of this declaration.

SECTION 7. Duration. This Proclamation shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days from the date hereof, unless extended, renewed, or terminated by subsequent proclamation or action of the City Council. This Proclamation shall be renewed as necessary in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108

SECTION 8. Effective Date. This declaration is effective immediately upon signing. Pursuant to this declaration and the authority granted to the Mayor hereunder, additional directives may be issued by the Mayor at any time deemed necessary and/or relevant.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Rockport, Texas to be affixed this 11th day of May, 2026, at Rockport, Aransas County, Texas.

CITY OF ROCKPORT, TEXAS


LOWELL TIMOTHY JAYROE, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shelley Goodwin, City Secretary