



**For Immediate Release  
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**Petition filed with the TCEQ to Adopt Regulations for Intake Structures to Protect The Environment From Risks Associated With Seawater Desalination Process**

Ingleside on the Bay Coastal Watch Association (IOCBWA), Port Aransas Conservancy (PAC), and Hillcrest Residents Association (HRA) petitioned the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) today to adopt regulations governing intake structures for seawater desalination facilities to protect the environment from risks associated with the desalination process.

Many unnecessary seawater desalination projects are currently proposed in Texas, each of which would discharge tremendous amounts of contaminated brine, while also withdrawing large quantities of water from Texas' valuable natural waters.

In expectation of these facilities, the Texas Legislature in 2015 required the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to develop rules that would ensure the implementation of reasonable measures to minimize the environmental impacts of desalination facilities for intake structures at these facilities.

"TCEQ has not adopted regulations governing intakes at desalination facilities, as required by Chapter 18 of the Texas Water Code," explained Eric Allmon, an attorney representing the petitioners. "TCEQ already has such rules for intakes for cooling water, and there is no excuse for providing less protection to the environment near desalination facilities. Our petition asks that TCEQ fulfill its statutory duty and adopt rules governing desalination intakes that are analogous to the regulations TCEQ has already adopted governing cooling water intake structures."

Desalination facilities intake large amounts of seawater to convert to freshwater by reverse osmosis. Aquatic organisms are often trapped against intake screens or sucked into the facility itself. The proposed rules establish minimum standards for design of intake structures and a framework for enhanced scrutiny where important sport and commercial fisheries would be impacted.

"The proposed rules would ensure that desalination projects in Texas are regulated in a uniform and efficient manner that protects the natural environment and local economies," said Mr. Allmon.

The Petition and Proposed Rules filed with the Commission can be found on the following Websites:

- <http://www.capetx.com/>
- <https://www.iobcwa.org/>
- <https://portaransasconservancy.com/>

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