

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 11**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA, TEXAS SUPPORTING THE ARTIFICIAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM LEGISLATION FILED BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE JANIE LOPEZ AND STATE SENATOR MORGAN LAMANTIA PROPOSING CHANGES TO THE FLOOD INFRASTRUCTURE FUND PROGRAM AND ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE FUNDING CHALLENGES THAT COMMUNITIES WITH ARTIFICIAL DRAINAGE SYSTEMS FACE.**

**WHEREAS**, Texas is a very diverse state from the High Plains to the Edwards Plateau, the Piney Woods, Permian Basin, the Gulf Coast and the Rio Grande Valley, each area is distinct and different and beautiful;

**WHEREAS**, Texas is a unique blend of diversity, but in such a diversity not all aspects are created equal. We are all subject to extreme weather events including extreme rainfall and flooding, but our ability to mitigate such events is not equal;

**WHEREAS**, Most of the state has topographic relief, slope, and defined floodways;

**WHEREAS**, Some areas including the Rio Grande Valley, along with other border and coastal regions, do not have this relief;

**WHEREAS**, With limited natural channels, the only way to mitigate flooding is by the creation of artificial drainage systems;

**WHEREAS**, State Representative Janie Lopez and State Senator Morgan LaMantia have filed legislation to address artificial drainage systems;

**WHEREAS**, The La Feria City Commission finds it appropriate to support HB 3796 and HB 4742 that State Representative Janie Lopez and to support the companion bills SB 2182 and SB 2183 that State Senator Morgan LaMantia has filed that address the funding challenges the communities, along the border and coastal regions, face with artificial drainage systems;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA, TEXAS, THAT IT:**

**SECTION 1.** SUPPORTS HB 4742 filed by State Representative Janie Lopez and SB 2182 filed by State Senator Morgan LaMantia that propose changes to the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) program, including adding a definition of an “artificial drainage system;” establishing scoring criteria that prioritizes improvements to such systems; revising the current percentage grant calculations for any regional artificial drainage projects to emphasize Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) in lieu of income levels; creating a loan forgiveness program in Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) specific to artificial drainage systems; and proposing that all loan funding provided from the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) program to communities with artificial drainage systems located in coastal and border counties be in the form of zero-interest loans.

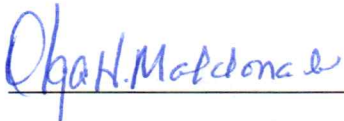
**SECTION 2.** SUPPORTS HB 3796 filed by State Representative Janie Lopez and SB 2183 filed by State Senator Morgan LaMantia that establishes an Artificial Drainage System Task Force to identify challenges for communities and drainage districts along the coast and Texas/Mexico border region to explore challenges and come up with solutions.

**SECTION 3.** RECOGNIZES the importance of this legislation to mitigate flooding and to help attract development to our community and to the border and coastal regions of the state.

**SECTION 4.** URGES the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs to act favorably on this artificial drainage system legislation.

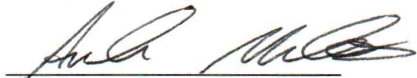
**CONSIDERED, PASSED, AND APPROVED AND SIGNED** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023 at a regular called meeting of the City Commission of the City of La Feria at which a quorum was present and which was held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

**CITY OF LA FERIA**



Olga H. Maldonado, Mayor

ATTEST:



Amanda Morales, City Secretary