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Texas Desalination Association Calls for Modernized Permitting and Accelerated Deployment of Marine and Brackish Desalination

The Texas Desalination Association urged lawmakers to modernize outdated permitting processes and accelerate deployment of marine and brackish desalination to secure Texas' long-term water supply.

Speaking before the House Natural Resources Committee, Executive Director **Kyle Frazier** emphasized that desalination is a proven, drought-proof technology used worldwide and that Texas must act now to protect its economic future.

“Marine desalination is not experimental — it’s a reliable, scalable water supply used in hundreds of locations around the world,” Frazier said. **“Texas has a virtually limitless source of water in the Gulf of Mexico. The question is not whether desalination works. The question is whether Texas will move quickly enough to benefit from it.”**

The Association identified several key impediments slowing desalination projects, including multi-year permitting timelines, outdated regulatory classifications, and lengthy federal review processes. Frazier called for the creation of General Permits for marine intakes, brine discharge, and brackish residuals, as well as streamlined TWDB environmental reviews.

“The barriers to desalination in Texas are procedural, not scientific,” Frazier said. **“We can accelerate desalination without compromising environmental protections simply by modernizing our permitting pathways.”**

The Association also recommended establishing an **Office of Desalination** to coordinate policy and funding across state agencies and encouraged the Legislature to consider partial state ownership of regional desalination infrastructure to reduce costs and expand regional benefits.

“Texas needs both marine and brackish desalination to meet future demand,” Frazier said. **“We stand ready to support the Legislature in deploying these critical water supplies.”**

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