



**STATE SENATOR
JUAN "CHUY" HINOJOSA
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SENATOR HINOJOSA URGES LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING WATER DESALINATION COMMITTEE HEARINGS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUSTIN - Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, a member of the Joint-Interim Committee to Study Water Desalination, is urging local stakeholders and water planning organizations to participate in the upcoming water desalination committee hearings this month. Senator Hinojosa had invited the committee to host hearings in Corpus Christi and the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) to hear the unique water needs and challenges in South Texas and the Coastal Bend area. A committee hearing in Corpus Christi has been scheduled for June 23rd. The committee is tentatively planning a fact-finding expedition to South Texas for the near future.

The Joint Committee to Study Water Desalination has three committee hearings scheduled:

When: June 16th, 2014
Where: Texas Capitol- Room E1.036
Address: 1100 Congress Ave., Austin, Texas 78701
Time: 12:00 PM

When: June 23rd, 2014
Where: Ortiz Center- Nueces Room
Address: 402 Harbor Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78701
Time: 10:00 AM

When: June 30, 2014
Where: The Kemp Center for the Arts- Great Hall
Address: 1300 Lamar, Wichita Falls, Texas 76301
Time: 11:00 AM

"Water security is the most pressing social and economic challenge of our time. Water is vital to life and the development of our society and economies," stated Senator Hinojosa. "Texas is uniquely positioned to take advantage of advancements in desalination. The state lies beside a sea and above another. It is important that our local communities are engaged and part of the conversation as the state examines the viability of desalination."

"Texas has the strongest economy in the Nation and leads the region in population growth, creating greater demand for water. Water desalination, already common in South America, the Middle East, and elsewhere, is worth exploring as the state strives to meet future water needs of citizens, agriculture, and industry," stated Senator Hinojosa. "The future prosperity of Texas depends heavily on the availability of water, and it is imperative that we fully understand all of our options when it comes to securing this vital resource."

Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa proudly represents the counties of Nueces, Jim Wells, Brooks, and Hidalgo (part). Senator Hinojosa serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, Vice-Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, a member of the Select Committee on Transportation Funding, Joint-Interim Committee to Study Water Desalination, and serves on the Senate Committees on Natural Resources, Criminal Justice, Agriculture, Rural Affairs and Homeland Security, as well as the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the Sunset Advisory Commission.

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