



B R O W N S V I L L E
PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Texas Legislative Committee to Tour SRWA

BROWNSVILLE, Texas –Southmost Regional Water Authority (SRWA) officials will provide a tour of the brackish groundwater treatment facility to the Joint Interim Committee to Study Water Desalination on Monday, July 28.

In a letter from May 19, state Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. (D-Brownsville), a member of the joint committee, invited the committee's chairmen, state Rep. Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) and state Sen. Craig Estes (R-Wichita Falls), and colleagues to visit the brackish groundwater treatment facility found in his district.

"I thank the joint committee's chairmen, Representative Hunter and Senator Estes, for accepting my invitation to bring our joint interim committee to Brownsville for a fact-finding tour and policy briefing to discuss our local desalination efforts. Our Brownsville Public Utilities Board is a leader in desalination in Texas with more than a decade of experience with desalination operations. I am looking forward to welcoming my legislative colleagues to the Rio Grande Valley, where they can see first-hand how local leaders have developed a model for how all of Texas can responsibly address growing water needs in the face of a historic drought," said Lucio.

The delegation coming to Brownsville for the tour is expected to include members of the Texas Legislature as well as members of the Texas Water Development Board.

SRWA uses reverse osmosis membrane technology to treat brackish groundwater for drinking water purposes. The facility at SRWA is capable of producing as much as 7.5 million gallons per day (mgd), which currently accounts for about 24 percent of Brownsville's potable water. SRWA, of which BPUB owns 92.91 percent, is currently undergoing an expansion. Once that is complete, it will be capable of producing as much as 11 mgd.

"SRWA is a tremendous asset to BPUB and all of the entities who partner in it. During times of drought, it has been a valuable alternative water source, and we look forward to showing the group how it operates," said BPUB General Manager & CEO John S. Bruciak.

Members of the media interested in attending the event are being asked to arrive at 1 p.m., when the tour is scheduled to begin. The opportunity to ask questions or conduct interviews will only be available following the tour.

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