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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS UNIFY TO DEMAND CITY COUNCIL PROTECT OUR BAY INSTEAD OF INDUSTRIAL POLLUTERS

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CHISPA TEXAS, FOR THE GREATER GOOD, GULF OF MEXICO YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT,  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE COASTAL BEND, INGLESIDE ON THE BAY COASTAL WATCH ASSOCIATION,  
SOUTH TEXAS HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER, AND TEXAS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
WILL PRESENT MAJOR POLICY INITIATIVES TO THE NEWLY SWORN IN COUNCIL

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## Press Conference

Jan. 10, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

Corpus Christi City Hall

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX: A coalition of local environmental groups are demanding a fresh approach of the newly elected Corpus Christi City Council. In the wake of the oil spill that marred the Corpus Christi Bay from Ingleside to North Beach to Texas A&M University — Corpus Christi, the groups are united in the belief that it is incumbent upon our local elected officials to protect the city’s most precious natural resources: our air, soil, and our bay. “It’s time to stop letting the fox guard the hen house,” said For the Greater Good co-founder Isabel Araiza.

Chispa Texas, For the Greater Good, Gulf of Mexico Youth Climate Summit, Indigenous Peoples of the Coastal Bend, Ingleside on the Bay Coastal Watch Association, South Texas Human Rights Center, and Texas Campaign for the Environment will hold a press conference the morning of the swearing-in ceremony for the recently elected Corpus Christi City Council in which they will outline the most urgent priorities the new council must address.

1. Stop coddling heavy industry.

The recent industrial build out in our area has been an utter disaster for taxpayers, the economy, and the environment. While property taxes soar, billion-dollar corporations are getting tax abatements. Promised jobs have not materialized. Previous councils have promised precious water resources and provided tax breaks to known polluters who have significantly coopted the quality of life in the Coastal Bend. As the climate disaster continues, elected officials must ensure the fundamental right to clean water for their constituents is their highest priority. Stop promising water resources to polluters.

2. Abandon desalination plans.

The science is clear. Desalination in what the Environmental Protection Agency has designated an “estuary of national significance,” would destroy our bay. Moreover, desalination facilities are being proposed not to provide water to the residents of the City of Corpus Christi, but instead to lure more heavy water user industries to our region. Previous councils created a boondoggle and wasted millions of taxpayer dollars trying to impose this flawed plan. Desalination is already being challenged in the courts, and the EPA will likely not allow such a preposterous initiative to move forward. The solution is simple: fix our aging infrastructure. Water saved by investing in modern infrastructure will provide for water needs well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

3. Formulate man-made environmental disaster management.

As the 2016 complete water ban AND the recent oil spill made clear, the city is currently not equipped to handle a major environmental disaster. The council must task City Manager Peter Zanoni with creating a department within city government

dedicated to preparing for and quickly responding to man-made environmental disasters. The city cannot count on the fossil fuel industry to adequately respond to future disasters.

As the new council is sworn in, it's time to envision a city that will be a scenic and safe place to live for decades to come, and to build it together.



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