

Good evening, my name is Charles Bujan. I am the Mayor of the City of Port Aransas. Welcome to our City. We appreciate the TCEQ and the Port of Corpus Christi holding this public meeting regarding the Port's proposed desalination plant.

The City of Port Aransas, as you know, has protested the Port's application for a discharge permit that would allow the Port to discharge large quantities of highly salty reject water into an area that serves as a migratory path for marine species and larva between the bays and the Gulf of Mexico.

The City's primary concerns are the impacts this facility will have on the fisheries in the area.

Fishing and tourism are the main economic drivers for Port Aransas. Our town has long attracted recreational fishermen and women to its waters because of its unique location between the ocean and bay, and because of the abundance of marine life in the area.

The City is concerned the intake of seawater and the discharge of the highly salty reject water at the proposed location will negatively affect those fisheries on which the people of Port Aransas and those that visit the City rely and enjoy.

The City requests that the TCEQ require the Port to conduct an independent and extensive study to evaluate the impacts the proposed location of the seawater intakes and the discharges will have on the fisheries before moving forward with this permit.

With that said, the City isn't opposed to desalination as a water supply source. The City would withdraw its hearing request and comments if both the intake facilities and discharge point were relocated at least 2 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico.

Thank you.