#R-2018-123

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PRESERVATION OF NIGHT SKIES IN THE NEW BRAUNFELS UTILITIES SERVICE TERRITORY

WHEREAS, New Braunfels Utilities recognizes the importance of the city and the surrounding Texas Hill Country for its diverse ecosystems, ethics for land stewardship, rich cultural heritage, and breathtaking scenic beauty; and

WHEREAS, the influx of people into the region over the years and accompanying light trespass from area lighting fixtures has been steadily on the rise, and these factors have impacted the natural environment and the quality of life of the people of this region by, among other things, reducing night sky visibility and enjoyment for residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, in recent years greater focus has been placed on the economic and financial benefits of preserving the scenic beauty in and around New Braunfels in order to maintain the city's unique historic heritage and enhance tourism; and

WHEREAS, preserving the rich historic heritage and starry night skies of New Braunfels is important to its citizens in order for the city to remain unique from other large Texas urban areas where unnecessary and inefficient lighting has turned night into day; and

WHEREAS, street lighting fixtures are readily available that are designed to direct light only where it is needed, distribute light more efficiently and effectively, and thereby reduce glare, power consumption and cost; and

WHEREAS, New Braunfels Utilities is COMMITTED to supporting practices that limit or minimize light trespass from street light fixtures in order to protect the beauty of the night skies and allow others the full benefit and use of their property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NEW BRAUNFELS UTILITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS, that New Braunfels Utilities shall promote and encourage street lighting fixtures and practices that follow up-to-date guidelines and use available technologies for efficient, non-intrusive lighting and will endeavor to educate and encourage landowners, businesses, residential neighborhoods, and public entities to join in this commitment to reduce energy consumption, save money, reduce light trespass and preserve our starry night skies.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this the 30th day of August, 2018.

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Atanacio Campos, President Board of Trustees New Braunfels Utilities

ATTEST:

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Ian Taylor Secretary to the Board of Trustees New Braunfels Utilities