

City of Norman, Oklahoma
Resolution No. XXXXXXXXX

A RESOLUTION TO PROTECT AND
PRESERVE THE LAKE
THUNDERBIRD WATERSHED, THE
CANADIAN RIVER CORRIDOR, THE
CITY'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY,
AND THE CITY'S FLOOD HAZARD
AREAS

WHEREAS, the City of Norman, Oklahoma, is committed to ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, and recognizes the paramount importance of preserving and protecting its natural resources, particularly its water supply, and the prevention of flood hazards to its residents; and

WHEREAS, Lake Thunderbird serves as the primary source of drinking water for the residents of Norman, and the integrity of the watershed supplying this lake is critical to maintaining the quality and availability of this water supply; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority has proposed the construction of toll roads that would traverse the watershed area supplying Lake Thunderbird, posing potential risks to the water quality and ecological balance of the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority has proposed the construction of toll roads that would traverse City Floodplains, including areas of the Lake Thunderbird Watershed and Aquatic Areas of Concern within a one-mile corridor along the Canadian River, posing further potential risks, including stormwater runoff pollution and flood hazards to the City, its citizens, and its water resources; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma law, including but not limited to 11 OK Stat § 37-115, explicitly grants municipalities the authority to protect and preserve watersheds supplying drinking water, empowering the City of Norman to take necessary measures to safeguard its water resources for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Municipal, State, and Federal Law, including the City's Flood Hazard Ordinance, Water Quality Protection Zone Ordinance, the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act, and the National Pollutant Discharge System Stormwater Program, Phase II MS4 Compliance, empower and require the City of Norman to prevent and protect against flood hazards and water quality impairments resulting from polluted stormwater runoff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Norman, Oklahoma:

1. **Commitment to Protection:** The City of Norman is committed to the protection and preservation of the watershed supplying Lake Thunderbird, along with the areas of concern along the Canadian River Corridor, recognizing these watersheds and bodies of water as essential to the health and wellbeing of its current and future residents.

2. **Opposition to the Toll Road:** The City of Norman formally opposes the construction of the proposed toll roads by the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority through the Lake Thunderbird watershed area and Aquatic Areas of Concern along the Canadian River Corridor, due to the unresolved negative impacts on the city's water supply, stormwater runoff, and potential flood hazards.

3. **Expectations for the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority:**

- **Environmental Impact Statement:** The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is expected to conduct a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with a focus on potential impacts to the Lake Thunderbird watershed and areas of concern along the Canadian River Corridor, including but not limited to water quality, biodiversity, flood hazards, untreated stormwater runoff, and hydrological changes.

- **Alternative Routes:** The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is obligated to explore and present alternative routes that would avoid the Lake Thunderbird watershed, and the areas of concern along the Canadian River Corridor, to mitigate any potential environmental harm.

- **Mitigation Measures:** The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority must propose and implement robust mitigation measures to minimize any adverse effects on the watershed and areas of concern for all roads traversing it.

- **Stakeholder Consultation:** The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority must engage in meaningful consultation with the City of Norman, environmental experts, and the public to ensure transparency and community involvement in decision-making processes.

4. **Public Awareness and Involvement:** The City of Norman will engage and educate the community about the importance of protecting the watershed, the areas of concern along the Canadian River Corridor, and will encourage public participation and support in efforts to safeguard the city's water resources.

5. **Collaborative Efforts:** The City of Norman commits to collaborating with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to enhance the protection of the watershed, the Canadian River Corridor, and to develop sustainable water management practices.

6. **Legal Actions:** The City Attorney and the Director of Public Works are authorized and directed to take all necessary and appropriate legal, permitting, floodplain management, and stormwater management actions to protect and enforce the city's legal rights and obligations,

including but not limited to actions under Oklahoma 11 OK Stat § 37-115, the City's Flood Hazard Ordinance, the City's Stormwater Management Plan, and any other relevant municipal, state, and federal laws, to ensure the ongoing protection of the Lake Thunderbird Watershed and Canadian River Corridor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of August, 2024.