

Pocket Facts: Hold The Salt

- Water fights have been a part of Texas politics since before the state joined the Union.
- Study after study forecasts dire circumstances for Texas water futures.
- Nations, particularly Middle Eastern, have been desalinating sea water for human use for more than 50 years.
- Global capacity to desalinate water has more than doubled in the past decade.
- Desalination technologies have advanced rapidly in the last decades, bringing down costs and mitigating environmental consequences.
- Rising capacity has lowered the cost of desalinating sea water from \$6 to \$2 per 1000 gallons
- Desalination demonstration projects are underway at three locations in Texas – Corpus Christi, Freeport and Brownsville.

Policy Recommendations

- Desalination clearly has a place as part of the solution to Texas' water dilemma. Desalination is a reliable water supply source and it is rapidly becoming cost competitive.
- The option to create public private partnerships to provide desalination facilities and operations is an option that should be made available to, and considered by, public owners.
- Public owners should consider creative partnering arrangements that may include an enhanced role for the private sector in the design, construction, operations and maintenance, and financing of desalination facilities.

See Back For Study Information.

Hold The Salt
The Promise Of Desalination For Texas
By James C. Smith, Ph.D.

Published October 2004 by the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Available online at:
<http://www.texaspolicy.com/pdf/2004-10-desal.pdf>
or by calling (512) 472-2700.

