GA 101
This Resolution Shall Henceforth Be Known As the “Defend West Texas/Balmorhea (Support West Texas Water Protectors)”

PURPOSE
To defend West Texas/Balmorhea and Support West Texas Water Protectors in the Permian Basin.

OPENING STATEMENT
Concerned landowners, indigenous communities, scientists, and citizens have united to protect the clean water, clean air, and dark skies of the iconic Big Bend region. With the silencing of our EPA, the withholding of scientific information, and the aggressive exploitation of natural resources, it is imperative we take a stance as an educated student body in this environmental justice movement.

WHEREAS: Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution of The University of Texas at San Antonio’s Student Government Association reads: “The duties and responsibilities of the SGA General Assembly shall be: To review, discuss, consider, and take any necessary action through legislation on all issues which concern the campus or students”; and

WHEREAS: Apache Corporation did not conduct an Environmental Impact Statement of the 300,000 acres of Chihuahuan desert purchased for hydraulic fracking surrounding Balmorhea, and

WHEREAS: Wells will be drilled through the water table to reach the natural gas with the possibility of methane contamination, and

WHEREAS: The ecotourism generated by the San Solomon Springs in Balmorhea State Park\(^1\) attracts over 150,000 visitors annually. In addition, the water from the artesian spring is used for irrigation by the farmers of Balmorhea.\(^2\), and

WHEREAS: Apache Corporation’s proposed 4000 frack wells each require and contaminate millions of gallons of water which is then treated as hazardous waste\(^2\). Drilling within 500 feet of

\(^1\) http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/balmorhea
Balmorhea State Park threatens the highly sensitive cienega (desert wetland) and the endangered species of Headwater Catfish; *Pecos Gambusia* and the *Comanche Springs Pupfish* that reside only in the San Solomon Springs at Balmorhea State Park.

WHEREAS: The McDonald Observatory\(^3\) which is also an affiliate of the University of Texas at Austin\(^4\); will be hindered of crucial research by limiting the facility’s “dark skies” due to nearby methane gas flaring and natural gas infrastructure, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The University of Texas at San Antonio Student Government Association calls upon all other SGA in the state of Texas to take action and respond in whatever capacity they deem necessary, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be provided to universities in the State of Texas, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the UTSA Student Government Association supports the efforts of The Big Bend Conservation Alliance, Defend Big Bend, and the Water Protector camps: Toyahville\(^5\) and Two Rivers, in their struggle to protect clean air and water and to hold oil and gas companies accountable, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That petition(s)\(^6\)\(^7\) which address the threats posed to the Big Bend region be electronically distributed (emailed) to all students, faculty, and Alumni at the University of Texas at San Antonio for their consideration in supporting.

Andrew Hubbard  
*President of Student Government Association*  
*The University of Texas at San Antonio*

\(^2\) [http://www.bigbendconservationalliance.org](http://www.bigbendconservationalliance.org)  
\(^3\) [http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/](http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/)  
\(^4\) [http://www.as.utexas.edu/mcdonald/mcdonald.html](http://www.as.utexas.edu/mcdonald/mcdonald.html)  
\(^5\) [http://www.camptoyahvale.org/](http://www.camptoyahvale.org/)  
\(^6\) [https://goo.gl/RD8ebo](https://goo.gl/RD8ebo)  
\(^7\) [https://goo.gl/DMvgo2](https://goo.gl/DMvgo2)