

Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change
Hearing on
“Lessons from Across the Nation: State and Local Action to Combat Climate Change”
April 2, 2019

Mayor Jerry F. Morales
The City of Midland, Texas

The Honorable John Shimkus (R-IL)

1. We would like to have a better handle about what cities and communities need to better plan and prepare for extreme weather events and other natural disasters.
 - a. Your region of Texas experienced a significant drought in recent years, which doubtless had huge impacts across your community.

RESPONSE: In 2010 we received a new drought of record. We did a big push for drought resistant landscaping to include drought resistant vegetation to conserve water. We also established an ordinance that stated residents could only water on certain days. A rate escalator was put in place at a higher tier to discourage wasteful water usage and encourage conservation.

- b. Can you speak to how Midland adapted to the drought and how it has prepared to withstand future droughts?

RESPONSE: Since the 2010 drought was the worse we've seen, Midland used several tools to ensure we had constant future water supply:

1. We secured additional water sources and developed 2 water ranches for immediate and medium range needs; T-Bar and Clear Water.
 2. We instituted our drought contingency plan which tiered water rates to encourage water conservation.
 3. We formed a partnership with neighboring cities (Abilene & San Angelo) called the West Texas Water Partnership to search for long range water supplies.
 - c. Did the oil and gas industry upon which your economy relies adapt? How so?

RESPONSE: Yes, the oil and gas industry has gone to less water intensive uses and they've partnered with us to do a public/private partnership by providing \$130,000,000 to upgrade our Wastewater Treatment Plant. Operators are using Santa Rosa water which is non-potable. This water will not pull as much from the aquifer. The companies are also recycling and reusing their production water.

- d. What other improvements have you seen in the industry that make life better, safer, and healthier for your constituents?

RESPONSE: Twenty energy companies located throughout West Texas and Southeast New Mexico formed an alliance known as the Permian Strategic Partnership (PSP). These companies have come together with one goal in mind for the first time in history. This goal is to support our community by partnering with local leaders to make roads safer, improve schools, upgrade healthcare, increase affordable housing, and train the next generation of workers.

Also:

- A Downtown Conservancy Park is being built right now to include greenspace, a splash pad/water feature, a performance stage, a pavilion, a dog park and a natural-style playground.
- The City entered into a public private partnership with Concho Resources to add above ground parking that is essential to our new Convention Center and a growing downtown.
- XTO Energy donated \$500,000.00 for the installation of a new splash pad at Dennis the Menace Park.
- The City has had numerous dedications of right of ways at no cost to the City in the last 5 years.