

RESOLUTION NO. 20170322-B

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A RESOLUTION OF THE HAYS TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Whereas, the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (HTGCD) is a political subdivision of the State of Texas, created in Chapter 1331, Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular Session, 1999 (S.B. 1911) and amended by Act of May 27, 2001, 77th Legislature, Regular Session, Chapter 966, Part 3, 2001 Texas General Laws 1880 (S.B. 2) collectively codified as Chapter 8843, Special District Local Laws Code; and

Whereas, HTGCD has as its purpose the conservation, preservation and protection of the Trinity Aquifer in western Hays County; and

Whereas, in the 85th Texas Legislative Session, Representative Jason Isaac filed House Bill Number 3677 relating to the creation of the Heart of Texas Aquifer District and the dissolution of certain groundwater conservation districts; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments, fees, or surcharges; and

Whereas, H.B. No. 3677, as filed, would create a new groundwater conservation district over Hays County and four other Central Texas counties while simultaneously abolishing the existing groundwater conservation districts in those counties including the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District; and

Whereas, H.B. No. 3677, as filed, would replace five locally elected Boards with a single, appointed Board; and

Whereas, H.B. No. 3677, as filed, would allow the appointed Board to hold property tax elections, establish groundwater production fees, adopt rules regulating groundwater withdrawals and have all the general powers and duties available in Chapter 36, Water Code; and

Whereas, H.B. No. 3677, as filed, would not include either the entirety of the Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management Area or Groundwater Management Area 9; and

Whereas, H.B. No. 3677, as filed, would transition the assets and funds of the existing Districts to the new district even though those assets were acquired with local property taxes and fees; and

Whereas, H.B. No. 3677, as filed, would create the Heart of Texas Aquifer District without requiring a confirmation election; and

Whereas, protecting groundwater resources and private property rights requires reasonable regulation supported by the regulated community, and any groundwater conservation district requires both the cooperation and support of the entire community; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District supports reasonable regulation of groundwater resources to protect private property rights through rules adopted by locally elected board members.

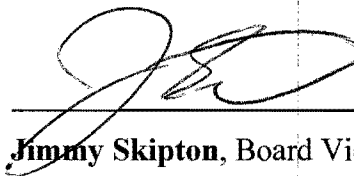
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAYS TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

- 1) The Board of Directors urges State Representative Jason Isaac to work with the existing groundwater conservation districts in Groundwater Management Area 9 and the Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management Area to achieve the goals of protecting groundwater resources and private property rights without replacing the existing elected Boards with an appointed Board or confiscating locally raised funds and assets.
- 2) The Board of Directors urges the Legislature to ensure all groundwater conservation districts have proper regulatory tools and adequate funding to accomplish the goals of Chapter 36, Water Code, and the individual enabling Acts that govern those districts.
- 3) The Board of Directors hereby instructs the District General Manager and Board President Linda Kaye Rogers to work with State Representative Jason Isaac and the rest of the Legislature to ensure protection of the groundwater resources of Hays County.

PASSED and APPROVED on this 22nd day of March, 2017



Linda Kaye Rogers, Board President



Jimmy Skipton, Board Vice President