

CORYELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE
THE STATE OF TEXAS

County Judge
Honorable John E. Firth

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Gatesville, Texas 76528
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April 14, 2008

Brazos G Water Planning Group
P.O. Box 7555
Waco, Texas 76714-7555

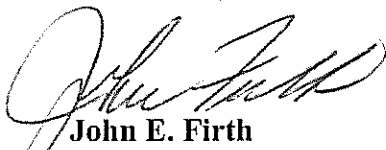
Mr. Buzbee,

The Coryell County Commissioners' Court today approved submitting the attached issue/recommendation paper to the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group at the April 16, 2008 public meeting to "receive input on scope of work for Phase II of the third round of the Regional Water Planning."

Although my schedule at the Coryell County Courthouse on April 16th will likely not allow me to arrive at the start of the meeting which is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m., please consider this request to submit the attached paper to the board during agenda item 4.2 which allows for the submission of "written public suggestions" and recommendations. I will be present for as much of the meeting as possible and can certainly address these recommendations at a time of your choosing; either during your meeting after I arrive or following the meeting with your staff and interested board members.

Coryell County has not participated in the past in your planning process to the degree which should have been expected, but with the Texas legislature's authority for Coryell County to confirm a Groundwater Conservation District and our study of the issues involving water in Central Texas, it is our desire to become much more active in participating in the future.

Thanks for your consideration and assistance. I look forward to meeting you on April 16th.


John E. Firth
Coryell County Judge

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as

cc: Mr. Scott Mack
Mr. Scott Diermann

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BRAZOS RIVER
AUTHORITY

ISSUE/RECOMMENDATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Coryell County Future Water Challenges

ISSUE: Water availability in Coryell County over the next 25 years will likely not be sufficiently available to meet the on-going needs of farmers and ranchers while supporting inevitable population growth demands.

BACKGROUND:

1. Based on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality study which was the basis for their recommendation of a Central Trinity Aquifer Primary Groundwater Management Area (GPMA), groundwater availability will be a critical issue in Coryell County over the next 25 years and beyond.
2. Water data and supporting information used from the 2001 and 2006 Regional Water Plans and the 2002 State Water Plan which supported the TCEQ GPMA study understate the magnitude of the long term ground water challenges for the Central Texas Trinity Aquifer since it underestimates projected water requirements based on current information.
3. The Fort Hood area has been identified by the U.S. Census Bureau as the fourteenth fastest metropolitan statistical area in the country and with Fort Hood trading land with Copperas Cove to build a reliever route to the North of Copperas Cove to intersect with FM 116, the area North of Copperas Cove will likely realize much greater growth than previously expected.
4. Lack of surface water availability in the Western and Southern sections of Coryell County North of Copperas Cove (distributed from Lake Proctor - two counties Northwest of Coryell County) is already negatively impacting economic development and growth in Coryell County.

GROUNDWATER CONCERNS :

1. Given the geological conditions of the Central Trinity Aquifer, Coryell County is in a relatively "high and dry" area with groundwater use in McLennan and Bell Counties being partially recharged by groundwater from Coryell County but Coryell County groundwater not as materially recharged by groundwater from Hamilton County and further "up-aquifer" counties.
2. The Central Trinity Aquifer PGMA being designated by TCEQ will not provide a mechanism to manage effective recharge the Central Trinity Aquifer in Coryell County since it does not include participation of "up-aquifer" counties in the Central Trinity (Outcrop area) Aquifer...as

compared to the Northern Trinity Aquifer PGMA which includes all counties in the Northern Trinity (Outcrop and Subcrop areas) Aquifer.

3. Potential actions by the Brazos River Authority to capture groundwater which could impact on Coryell County groundwater levels in the future.
4. Potential actions by Fort Hood to capture groundwater which could impact on Coryell County groundwater levels over the next 25 years.
5. Gas drilling and use of injection wells in the Barnett Shale and other areas which could impact groundwater availability and quality within Coryell County over the next 25 years.

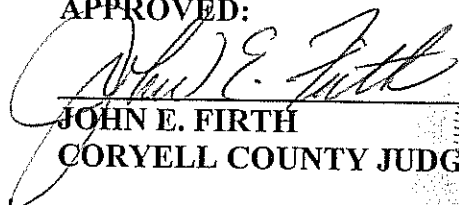
SURFACE WATER ISSUES:

1. The Western and Southern (North of Copperas Cove) sections of Coryell County (a State declared economically disadvantaged County) are supported by a water supply company that has limited financial resources to expand water distribution capacity. Having to move water lines as a result of the TxDOT widening of U.S. Highway 84 will require a significant capital investment and will commit reasonably available financial resources for some period of time which could have been used to expand distribution and storage infrastructure to meet current and future growth.
2. The lack of an ability to expand surface water distribution capacity in many parts of Western and Southern Coryell County will require an even greater future demand on the use of groundwater within the County.

RECOMMENDATIONS AS APPROVED DURING CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT ON APRIL 14TH, 2008 for submission as a "public suggestion" during agenda item 4.2 of the Brazos G Region Water Planning Group meeting on April 16th which will be meeting to "receive input on Scope of Work for Phase II of the Third Round of Regional Water Planning":


1. That all appropriate water planning agencies within the State consider the issues discussed above in future water studies and planning.
2. That all appropriate water authorities and groundwater management areas consider the issues discussed above during planning and action decisions.

APPROVED:



JOHN E. FIRTH
CORYELL COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:



BARBARA SIMPSON
CORYELL COUNTY CLERK

