

Board Resolution for Hamilton Pool Road Water Service

Whereas, groundwater is the sole source of drinking water for residents in most areas of western Travis County and northern Hays County, a region where considerable development has occurred and is expected to continue; and

Whereas, area residents have made it clear to the Board that the quality of groundwater is poor and supplies are unreliable; and

Whereas, the Texas Water Development Board projects that the Trinity Aquifer – the source of groundwater for much of this area – will decline significantly in the next 20 years, further deteriorating groundwater quality and supplies; and

Whereas, it is reasonable to conclude that groundwater is not a viable long-term source of drinking water for this area; and

Whereas, the Board finds that the current level of reliance on dwindling groundwater supplies in this area is detrimental to the region's natural resources; and

Whereas, the Board supports appropriate water quality measures along with efforts to build strong, viable communities and to protect natural resources; and

Whereas, the stated mission of LCRA is to provide reliable, low-cost utility and public services in partnership with our customers and communities and to use our leadership role and environmental authority to ensure the protection and constructive use of the area's natural resources;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved that LCRA, a regional utility provider, intends to provide water service and wastewater service, wherever appropriate and in an environmentally sound manner, in the Colorado River basin, including west Travis and northern Hays counties; and

Further Resolved that the Board directs staff to prepare and submit for Board consideration a water utility service plan for the western Travis and northern Hays counties, including the Lake Austin and Lake Travis watersheds, after having received and addressed meaningful public input on the plan, and taking into due consideration other providers of service; and

Further Resolved that the Board authorizes the general manager and staff to negotiate final water utility service agreements with the three landowners identified in Agenda Item 13 who have requested service on Hamilton Pool Road, with the additional direction that staff bring final agreements back to the Board for approval in December 2004 in order to give regional planning processes more time to work; and

Further Resolved that the Board directs staff to work with homeowners and landowners along Hamilton Pool Road in existing subdivisions to determine how and when LCRA water service could be provided to people who need a reliable source of surface water, and directs staff to present this as part of the plan to be presented to the Board in December 2004; and

Further Resolved that LCRA intends to offer water service to undeveloped areas of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer region only when proposed development complies with the September 2000 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service measures as provided by the May 2000 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), provided that if appropriate jurisdictions adopt a regional plan that calls for more stringent water quality measures, LCRA will consider the adoption of those measures as a substitute for the MOU measures; and

Further Resolved that although LCRA is not, and cannot be, a land-use regulator, LCRA will continue to support the Hays County regional planning effort, and the Board directs staff to offer the Hamilton Pool Road community in-kind assistance in developing a local plan to address traffic, open space, schools and other planning issues; and

Further Resolved that the Board authorizes staff to seek a certificate of convenience and necessity to become the water provider in appropriate uncertificated areas in this region, with the understanding that the regulatory process for obtaining the certificate, and the certificate itself, will establish LCRA's roles and responsibilities for providing surface water to this region; and

Further Resolved that the General Manager and staff be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the terms and purposes of this resolution.

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