



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To THE EDITOR & YOU

More citizens comment on proposed Groundwater District

On Nov. 5, the citizens of Colorado County will be asked to vote on the creation of a local Groundwater Conservation District. Although the availability of water may never have been a concern of your or may not even be a concern of yours at the present time, it will definitely be a concern of your children or future generations. I urge you to take this vote seriously and make an educated and responsible decision for yourself and the future citizens of Colorado County.

What amazes me in reading the onslaught of letter by those opposing the GCD is the fact that many people continue to take water for granted. YES...our resource of water continues to be taken for granted.

Put aside, for only a moment, all other thoughts (eminent domain, taxes, government) and focus on the true issue...Water and how we can help insure its availability in Colorado County, not only for the next couple of years, but forever. The answer is conservation. The bottom line is we will run out of groundwater, if we don't begin acting. It is already happening in the other parts of Texas and without action, it will happen in Colorado County.

Currently, the creation of the Post Oak GCD is the only means by which

we can begin a responsible conservation plan. As I see it, one of the biggest reasons for the GCD is to begin collecting data on our groundwater (the depth and movement of the water table, recharge rate, etc). This data is crucial to any water conservation plan. Hopefully, we will find that the current water usage has no long-term effect on our water table. Nevertheless, developing this data will enable us to realize the effects of any out of county water transfers that inevitably will occur. This type of concrete data, in the least, can give us a unified direction in fighting any transfer of water that will remove our groundwater faster than it can be replaced. Personally, I'd like to be able to prevent any of our groundwater from crossing county lines, but, by law, this is the ONLY option we have.

Some have wondered the possible agenda of those supporting this GCD. Conservation of our water in Colorado County is the simple answer. That's it...WATER CONSERVATION. In our tree far, we depend on water for our livelihood. I don't have any problem paying my fair share to ensure that my future generations can appreciate that valuable resource we have so often take for granted...WATER!

Curtis P. Glueck
 Eastern Colorado County

My concern with the creation of the GCD involves the issue of Property Rights. The privilege of owning property is the right to develop that property as you and your family sees fit. IF the GCD is approved, Chapter 36 allows the following:

36.105 Power of Eminent Domain- The right of condemnation is an element of law that I choose not to pass to another agency. Do not take Eminent Domain lightly. Ask your friends at Fayette Lake who saw land and mineral rights taken from them through use of Eminent Domain.

36.123 Right of Ingress and Egress-allows directors, engineers, agents and employees of a GCD the right to enter, inspect and conduct tests to determine usability of the property. I personally choose not to give unlimited access of my property to another government agency.

36.104 This section allows a GCD the authority to purchase, sell and transport surface or groundwater for any purpose. Why would property owners-large or small-vote to allow any agency the right to market that which we consider so valuable? Any time a commodity is perceived to be limited in its supply a market is automatically created. Thus the GCD has

begun the process of setting a price on our water.

In the event the GCD is defeated, the State of Texas will assist in the creation of a District IF we are determined to be in a Priority Groundwater Management Area. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is presently evaluating counties and will have its report completed by September of 2005. At that time we may create our own district if we see a need. Production fees and not Property Texas will fund the district.

Landowners and Texans cherish Property Rights in general. I do not choose to burden my children and future generations with the loss of these rights plus the taxes that will be asked of me as the rights are handed away.

I conclude by asking the question of why the rush to develop a GCD when all of the research has not been completed? I currently am attempting to evaluate the old adage of "Follow the Money", who will benefit financially when our water is condemned.

I recommend a vote against the GCD, let the TCEQ complete their study and then evaluate our situation.

Richard Heffley
 Columbus

I attended the meeting at the courthouse sponsored by the Post Oak GCD Advisory Committee. It was very interesting to me, that we are told over and over, we need a GCD so we can have local control. Yet, no one on the program was local!

There was a gentleman from Mesa GCD in West Texas, who admitted they really weren't concerned about anyone trying to take their groundwater, since they have such a limited supply. Therefore, there is really no correlation between their problems and ours.

Then there was a lobbyist from the Farm Bureau. This person's whole job is to get legislation pushed through in Austin. It appears since he was successful in getting HB 1629 passed, which allows water from the Lower Colorado River Basin to be transferred out of our basin to a municipality outside of our area, and Senate Bill 2

Dear Citizens of Colorado County, Recently, some of you may have heard or seen information about a water company that has supposedly leased a large acreage of land for the water rights. Maps were shown where this acreage was suppose to be located, along the San Bernard River.

I have been informed by several knowledgeable landowners, who have property within the area indicated on these maps, both in Austin and Colorado counties, that they have not leased any water rights and they have not even been contacted by such a company. They are likewise unaware of any of their neighbors who have leased water rights either.

If this part of the information that was being circulated is not valid, then why should we believe any of the information that was being circulated.

Be careful when you go to vote. Make sure you know the facts. Read Chapter 36. It can be trusted. It is the law. The GCD will have the authority to tax your property and violate your property rights. Don't be scared into voting for more government regulations. Vote NO on the GCD!

Bob Raborn, Alleyton

Publisher's Note: Mr. Raborn is correct in stating no one has been able to find out whose land is leased or supposedly leased by PureTex.

But, I refer to the article in the Oct. 14th issue of The Houston Business Journal which states that Houston-

passed which gives GCDs the power of eminent domain and condemnation, so that pipelines can be laid to export that water from our area, now he is working just as hard to push communities to form GCDs to complete this scheme. I don't see anything in this plan about conservation or protecting our wells.

Finally there were directors from the Brazos Valley and Lost Pines GCDs here telling us how badly we need to approve our GCD in November. What is really strange, neither of these districts have been approved by their own voters! If this is about local control, why were all these people here trying to influence what happens in Colorado County?

I would urge you not to let outsiders with ties to Austin and LCRA influence your decisions. Vote NO on the GCD November 5th.

Carl Hillmer, Columbus

based engineering services company Binkley & Barfield Inc. has signed an agreement with PureTex Water Works Inc. to design and oversee the construction of Sealy-based PureTex's water conveyance system to provide Houston and the Harris County area with 450 million gallons of water per day by 2008!

Also, from the website of PureTex referring to the map on Page 1, the company's area of interest states:

"In eastern Colorado County and west central Austin County, the saturated part of the alluvial aquifer is about 22 miles wide... Water from most wells completed in the aquifer is used for irrigation.

"Given the aquifer's geological setting, its high transmissivity, and its proven capacity of sustainability, PureTex's engineers estimate that in its area of interest, PureTex can guarantee delivery of 450 million gallons per day of... drinking water supply for the Houston area for 63 years through 2065..."

I am not surprised to see that Toby Barlow grossly misinterpreted and completely misunderstood by letter comparing the powers of the groundwater conservation district (GCD) to those of the police. After all, his equally gross misinterpretation of the purpose and authorities of the proposed GCD seemingly betray him as a man of limited perspicacity.

(See Misunderstood, Page 5)

J. JULIAN MOORE
 Former Felony Prosecutor - Colorado County Attorney
 GENERAL CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PRACTICE

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I want to share my experiences of what happened at the recent meeting of the Post Oak Groundwater District for those that were unable to attend. First, the sound system was so poor, many people said that they couldn't hear anything that was said.

Many honest and sincere people came wanting to hear both sides of the issue hoping to help them make up their minds on how to vote on this issue, but only those who were for the GCD were allowed to speak.

When they did allow questions, they had to be written and passed in. The people in charge kept tossing cards aside saying, "We've already

answered that question." However, several people said their questions were never answered.

Finally, when they read my question, they said it was too confusing. I stood up to try and explain what I meant. I was rudely told to sit down, that they were not taking comments from the audience.

If this is an example of how citizens will be treated once we get a GCD, then you had better be prepared to be pushed around by more expert government big shots!

I say vote NO to more government. It is time for the citizens to have a say about how our water and our property rights are protected.

Jimmy Kleimann, Columbus

Bible Verse of the Week

"Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord."

— Psalm 134:2

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

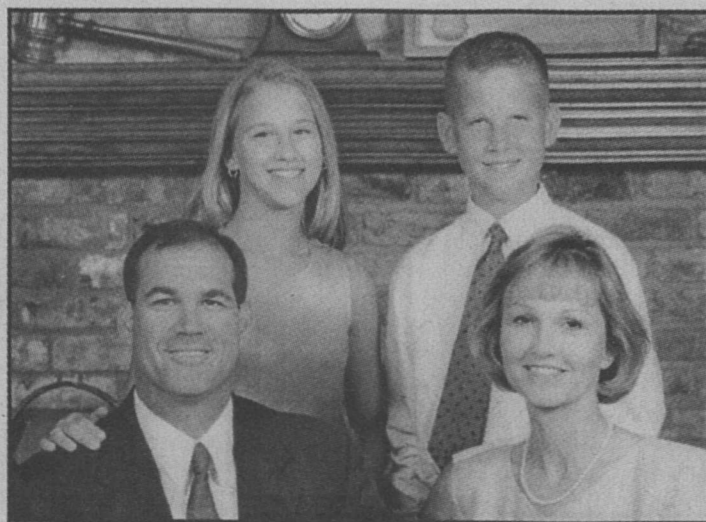
Robby COOK FOR RURAL TEXAS

LEADERSHIP FOR RURAL TEXAS

Rural Texas Resources

The Brazos and Colorado Rivers run through the heart of House District 17, and as a farmer and former small town Mayor, I understand that having a clean, reliable water supply is absolutely essential to our area. As a member of the House Natural Resources Committee and the Rural Caucus, I will work hard to ensure that our water stays right here. As one of the few full-time farmers remaining in the Legislature, I know how important it is to protect our private property rights. Here in rural Texas, we know what it means to be good stewards of the land, and I will fight hard to defeat any measures that would weaken private property rights.

A REPRESENTATIVE YOU CAN BE PROUD OF!



Representative Robby Cook and Family

Experienced Legislator & Family Man

Contact Robby at (979) 234-2713 • www.robbcook.com

Pol. Adv. Paid for by the Robby Cook Campaign, Mary Kay Dornak Cook, Treasurer, P.O. Box 716, Eagle Lake, Tx. 77434.

Anthony PININA for TRESASURER



20 Years Management Experience: Accounting and Personnel

Active in Church and Civic Organizations

Married to Carolyn Braden Pinina with 3 Children & 2 Grandchildren

As your County Treasurer and Chief Custodian of County funds, I will perform my duties as prescribed by law, applying my Administrative Knowledge in Accounting, Management Experience, Ethical Standards, and Conservative Views.

This qualifies me as the best candidate to handle the county's treasury and personnel responsibilities.

- ★ I will follow the **LAWS GOVERNING** the Office of County Treasurer.
- ★ I will bring a **BUSINESS APPROACH** to the Office of County Treasurer.
- ★ I will work **FULL TIME** for the citizens of Colorado County.
- ★ I will handle **YOUR MONEY** using sound investment practices.
- ★ And my door **WILL ALWAYS BE OPEN**, remembering that

I WORK FOR YOU!!!!

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5th.

Pol. Ad paid by Anthony Pinina/Carolyn Braden Pinina, Treas. P.O.Box 176, Columbus, TX. 78934,979-733-9716