

14306 Ranch Road 12, Suite 11
P.O. Box 2085
Wimberley, Texas 78676

Phone: (512) 847-3159
Fax: (512) 847-7352



Will Conley
Commissioner
Hays County, Texas
512-847-3159
will.conley@co.hays.tx.us

December 13, 2011

Texas Water Development Board
Melanie Callahan, Executive Administrator
PO Box 13231
Austin, Texas 78711-3231

Ms. Callahan,

My name is Will Conley, and I represent the southwestern portion of Hays County as a county commissioner. I write to you today to express my concern about the future of groundwater supplies in Western Hays County. Specifically, my grave concerns over the recent GMA 9 process that lead to the recommendation of an average 30' draw down of the Trinity Aquifer.

I do not need to express to this Agency the importance of our groundwater to this area. It is vital to everything we are and will become in this portion Hays County. The availability of groundwater is essential to the quality of life for myself and the thousands of people I have the honor of representing. This groundwater provides for our families, our wildlife, and is the sole source of water for the many natural assets that we cherish and hold dearly as a community. This precious resource is stressed, because of drought and development. It recharges slowly and reacts differently sometimes just a few miles down the road. I wish we had better science, so we could predict and compensate for its strengths and weaknesses. I do feel confident in saying that the Trinity Aquifer is strained, and I fear if more pressure is put on the Aquifer (at least in my area) then we may come to a point in time that we will not recover. Our quality of life would change forever and much of my precinct would lose a great deal of its immeasurable allure.

Therefore, I ask that you be conservative in your estimates for drawing down the Trinity. We need to be careful not to get ahead of ourselves in this process. We need to recognize that we do not have enough trinity groundwater availability for the long term sustainability of our citizens and our natural resources. We must promote alternative resources like rainwater harvesting, conservation, and surface water. I firmly believe the only way we can maintain our quality of life while providing for the future demands of our area is through the use of multiple tools and supplies.

We all have a tough job moving forward with regard to these issues in our State. I would like to thank you for your service and attention to our unique circumstances in southwestern Hays County. If I can be of any assistance to you in the future, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Will Conley

cc: Senator Jeff Wentworth,
Representative Jason Isaac
Honorable Bert Cobb, Hays County Judge