



COW CREEK GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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May 28, 2019

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
State Capitol P.O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

On behalf of the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District (GCD), I request your veto of House Bill (HB) 1806—Relating to the use of water withdrawn from the Edwards Aquifer by certain entities.

This bill would set a precedent that would establish bad policy for local groundwater management.

It would allow the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) to sell 1,500 acre-feet of water outside of its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN).

In essence, this brokers water from San Antonio into the Boerne area and Kendall County. SAWS export of this water is unprecedented as it would include Edwards Aquifer resources and would circumvent the existing law that has protected the Edwards Aquifer since 1993.

Curiously, the amount of water provided by the bill is the same quantity needed by Kendall County Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) No. 3 to supply water to a planned large new subdivision on the south side of Boerne. To date, the City has not provided its consent to the creation of this district.

WCID No. 3 is a water district created in the 2017 Legislative session without a source of water.

In the view of our Board of Directors, this bill would have a direct negative impact on effective governance because it runs contrary to the State's long-standing, preferred method of groundwater management and removes local citizens and local elected officials from deciding local issues.

If allowed to become law, it would allow a single legislator, acting on behalf of a single developer to proceed with their own agenda despite numerous written objections of local citizens and their locally elected representatives of affected city, county, and groundwater conservation districts.

For these reasons, we ask you please veto this bad bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Milan J. Michalec". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Milan J. Michalec
Cow Creek GCD
Director District 2 and Board President