

House Bill 30 stakeholder meeting on potential brackish groundwater production areas for the Carrizo-Wilcox, Gulf Coast, Blaine, and Rustler aquifers

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is holding a House Bill 30 stakeholder meeting on **Friday, September 9, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701.**

The purpose of the meeting is to (1) provide an update on the TWDB's implementation of House Bill 30; (2) solicit feedback on the results of the four aquifer studies required to be reported to the legislature by December 1, 2016; and (3) receive general comments concerning implementation of the legislation.

In 2015, the 84th Texas Legislature passed [House Bill 30](#) directing the TWDB to identify and designate brackish groundwater production zones in

- the portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer located between the Colorado River and Rio Grande, the Gulf Coast Aquifer and sediments bordering that aquifer, the Blaine Aquifer, and the Rustler Aquifer (findings to be summarized in the biennial desalination report due to the legislature by December 1, 2016) and
- the remaining areas of the state, unless otherwise exempted (findings to be summarized in biennial desalination reports due to the legislature no later than December 1, 2022).

The bill requires the TWDB to determine the amount of brackish groundwater that a brackish groundwater production zone is capable of producing over 30- and 50-year periods without causing a significant impact to water availability or water quality in any area of the same (or other) aquifers that have an average total dissolved solids concentration of less than 1,000 milligrams per liter. The TWDB is also required to provide recommendations for reasonable monitoring to observe the effects of brackish groundwater production.

House Bill 30 further directs the TWDB to work with groundwater conservation districts and stakeholders in this brackish aquifer mapping effort. To date, the TWDB has held several stakeholder meetings, including a general meeting on October 26, 2015, and several aquifer-specific meetings (April through August 2016) in Pleasanton, Fort Stockton, Austin, Quanah, and Wellington.

At the September 9, 2016, meeting, results of studies on the four brackish aquifer projects will be presented. Note that the contractors who worked on the projects were only responsible for evaluating potential production areas. Designation of brackish groundwater production zones in the four aquifers will be considered by the Board at a meeting in October 2016. Stakeholders will be notified about the meeting in advance.

We look forward to seeing you at the September 9, 2016, meeting.

Sincerely,

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