Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: July 1, 2014
Prepared By/Phone Number: Edith Moreida
Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez
Commissioners Court Sponsor: Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Receive update and Take Appropriate Action regarding ongoing efforts in Central Texas to organize an entity for the purpose of identifying needs and options for assuring adequate water service for the Region in order to assure the health of its citizens and the economic viability of the region

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Agenda in the County Judge's office **by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.

Diverse Planning and Development
Post Office Box 663 . Wimberley . Texas . 78676 . c 512.775.2698 . pix@xblink.com

June 17, 2014

Travis County Commissioners Court

PO Box 1748
Austin, TX 78767

Re: Update on Efforts to Address Regional Water Issues

Receive update and Take Appropriate Action regarding ongoing efforts in Central Texas to organize an entity for the purpose of identifying needs and options for assuring adequate water service for the Region in order to assure the health of its citizens and the economic viability of the region.

Background

On February 12th, 2013 the Travis County Commissioners Court adopted a resolution encouraging the formation of a Central Texas Utility Development Corporation (UDC) for the purposes of identifying options for potable water service in the Central Texas Region. Since then there have continued to be conversations and efforts to identify possible partners/participants in such an effort. There have been a number of meetings held around the Region to discuss needs and issues involving both urban and rural interests and concerns.

Issues

The meetings have brought to light the needs of communities, concerns of Ground Water Conservation Districts, the need to balance the use of water resources, possible aquifer recharge strategies and the general need to address these issues as a region.

Recommendations

So far the best vehicle for the formation of a body to tackle the issues appears to be a UDC as promulgated under Sub-Chapter D of Chapter 431 of the Transportation Code. It gives the most flexibility to the membership and if a project is contemplated by some portion of the membership it does not obligate the remaining members to participate in the funding. More importantly, as a Regional Organization it provides a better opportunity to influence State policy makers for the benefit of Central Texas Communities and their residents.

Requested Action and Funding Implications

This is meant as an update of the conversation and no action is needed at this time.

Thank You,

Pix Howell, AICP

DPD

a UDC for Central Texas

Utility Development Corporation

What is a UDC

The most important aspect to keep in mind is, it's just a convenient organization model from existing government code.

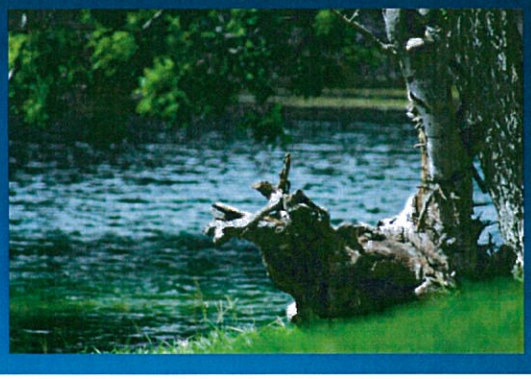
It is created from Sub-Chapter D of Chapter 431 of the Texas Transportation Code

- The UDC model has two important elements:
  1. Only Counties or Cities may have Board Seats
  2. If the UDC were to contemplate the implementation of a capital project, only those members that wished to fund would be obligated.

What Are the Policy Issues at Hand?

1. Establish Need
   - A. Review Growth trends and project impacts
   - B. Review of Current Sources
   - C. Review of Current Capacity

D. Identify Available Capacity
E. Identify Necessary Linkages
F. Prioritize Necessary Project Connections and Development (Here's where the collaboration begins.)



2. Establish Impacts and Mitigation Strategies

A. Identify impacts of transmission in various topographies of Central Texas

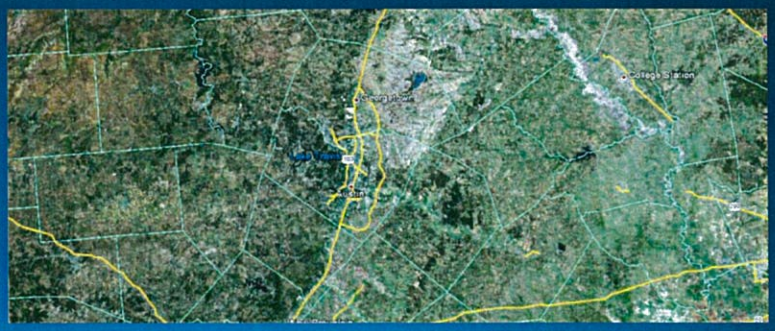
B. Identify impacts for prioritized projects

C. Identify infrastructure needs of Counties that have available water resources.

D. Identify possible remuneration for Counties that export water

E. Identify best management practices for water resource development

F. Identify strategies for influencing new growth made possible by additional supply



Why Now?

A soldier stands guard over what is left of the water in Lake Austin after releases have been made for downstream irrigation needs. This picture was taken in 1918.
— Photo courtesy Austin History Center

Fig. 3 CAMPO Population Forecasts by County (2005 - 2035)

	2005 Est.	2015	2025	2035
Travis	896,800	1,105,000	1,318,000	1,555,300
Williamson	330,700	473,300	702,700	1,026,500
Hays	126,200	189,200	271,600	371,200
Bastrop	69,500	102,300	149,200	215,500
Caldwell	35,400	50,100	65,300	82,100
Total	1,458,600	1,919,900	2,506,800	3,250,600

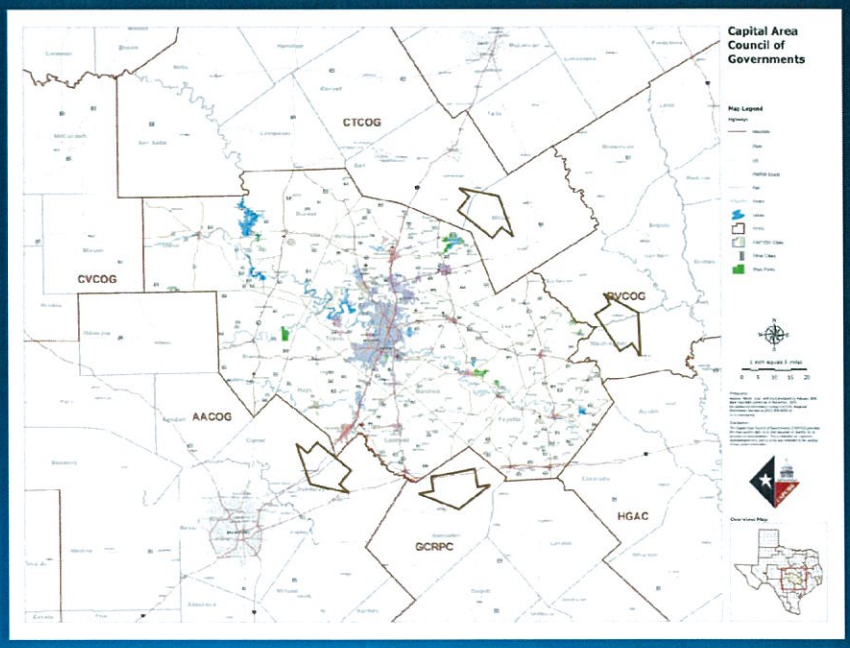
http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/drought/drght_final.html

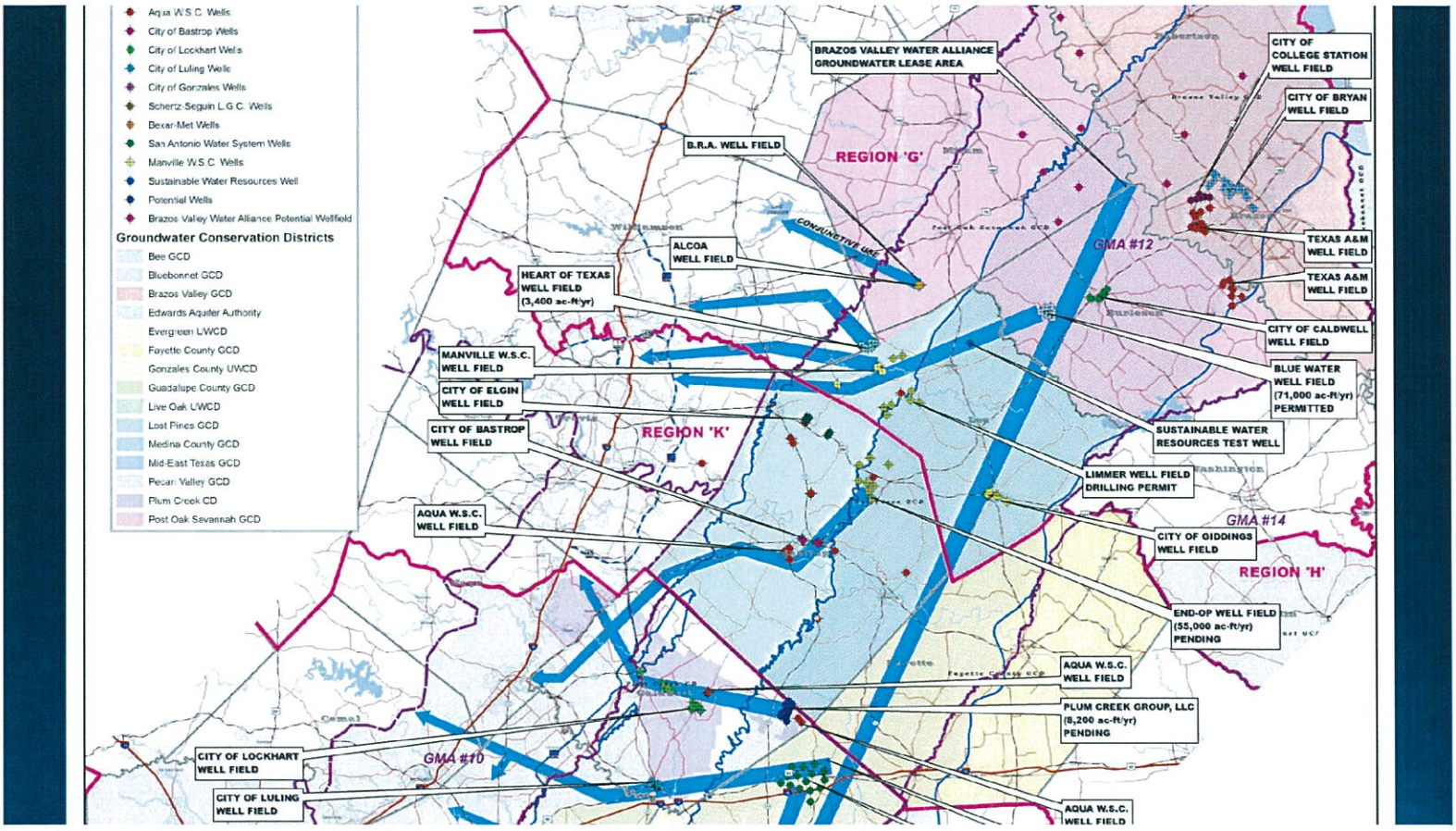
North American Drought: A Paleo Perspective

The paleoclimatic record of past droughts is a better guide than what is provided by the instrumental record alone of what we should expect in terms of the magnitude and duration of future droughts. For example, paleoclimatic data suggest that droughts as severe at the 1950s drought have occurred in central North America several times a century over the past 300-400 years, and thus we should expect (and plan for) similar droughts in the future. The paleoclimatic record also indicates that droughts of a much greater duration than any in 20th century have occurred in parts of North American as recently as 500 years ago. These data indicate that we should be aware of the possibility of such droughts occurring in the future as well. The occurrence of such sustained drought conditions today would be a natural disaster of a magnitude unprecedented in the 20th century.

Opportunities?

Possible Partners




Aqua W.S.C. Wells
City of Bastrop Wells
City of Lockhart Wells
City of Luling Wells
City of Gonzales Wells
Schertz-Seguin L.G.C. Wells
Bexar-Met Wells
San Antonio Water System Wells
Manville W.S.C. Wells
Sustainable Water Resources Well
Potential Wells
Brazos Valley Water Alliance Potential Wellfield
Groundwater Conservation Districts
Bee GCD
Bluebonnet GCD
Brazos Valley GCD
Edwards Aquifer Authority
Evergreen UWCD
Fayette County GCD
Gonzales County UWCD
Guadalupe County GCD
Live Oak UWCD
Lost Pines GCD
Medina County GCD
Mid-East Texas GCD
Pecan Valley GCD
Plum Creek CD
Post Oak Savannah GCD
BRAZOS VALLEY WATER ALLIANCE GROUNDWATER LEASE AREA
CITY OF COLLEGE STATION WELL FIELD
CITY OF BRYAN WELL FIELD
B.R.A. WELL FIELD
REGION 'G'
CONJUNCTIVE USE
ALCOA WELL FIELD
HEART OF TEXAS WELL FIELD (3,400 ac-ft/yr)
GMA #12
TEXAS A&M WELL FIELD
TEXAS A&M WELL FIELD
CITY OF CALDWELL WELL FIELD
MANVILLE W.S.C. WELL FIELD
CITY OF ELGIN WELL FIELD
BLUE WATER WELL FIELD (71,000 ac-ft/yr) PERMITTED
CITY OF BASTROP WELL FIELD
REGION 'K'
SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES TEST WELL
LIMMER WELL FIELD DRILLING PERMIT
AQUA W.S.C. WELL FIELD
GMA #14
CITY OF GIDDINGS WELL FIELD
REGION 'H'
END-OP WELL FIELD (55,000 ac-ft/yr) PENDING
AQUA W.S.C. WELL FIELD
PLUM CREEK GROUP, LLC (8,200 ac-ft/yr) PENDING
CITY OF LOCKHART WELL FIELD
GMA #10
CITY OF LULING WELL FIELD
AQUA W.S.C. WELL FIELD