

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1900

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District; providing authority to impose a tax.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle H, Title 6, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Chapter 8817 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 8817. SAN PATRICIO COUNTY GROUNDWATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 8817.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the board of directors of the district.

(2) "Director" means a member of the board.

(3) "District" means the San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District.

Sec. 8817.002. NATURE OF DISTRICT. The district is a groundwater conservation district in San Patricio County created under and essential to accomplish the purposes of Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

Sec. 8817.003. CONFIRMATION ELECTION REQUIRED. If the creation of the district is not confirmed at a confirmation election held before September 1, 2007:

(1) the district is dissolved on September 1, 2007, except that:

1           (A) any debts incurred shall be paid;

2           (B) any assets that remain after the payment of  
3 debts shall be transferred to San Patricio County; and

4           (C) the organization of the district shall be  
5 maintained until all debts are paid and remaining assets are  
6 transferred; and

7           (2) this chapter expires on September 1, 2010.

8           Sec. 8817.004. INITIAL DISTRICT TERRITORY. The initial  
9 boundaries of the district are coextensive with the boundaries of  
10 San Patricio County, Texas.

11           Sec. 8817.005. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER GROUNDWATER  
12 CONSERVATION DISTRICT LAW. Except as otherwise provided by this  
13 chapter, Chapter 36, Water Code, applies to the district.

14           [Sections 8817.006-8817.020 reserved for expansion]

15           SUBCHAPTER A-1. TEMPORARY PROVISIONS

16           Sec. 8817.021. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY DIRECTORS. (a)  
17 Not later than the 30th day after the effective date of the Act  
18 creating this chapter, the San Patricio County Commissioners Court  
19 shall appoint five temporary directors and enter the appointments  
20 in the minutes of the court.

21           (b) If a temporary director fails to qualify for office or  
22 if there is a vacancy on the temporary board of directors of the  
23 district, the county commissioners shall appoint a person to fill  
24 the vacancy.

25           (c) Temporary directors serve until the earlier of:

26           (1) the time initial directors are elected as provided  
27 by Section 8817.022; or

1           (2) the date this chapter expires under Section  
2 8817.003.

3           Sec. 8817.022. CONFIRMATION AND INITIAL DIRECTORS'  
4 ELECTION. (a) The temporary directors shall hold an election to  
5 confirm the creation of the district and elect seven initial  
6 directors.

7           (b) At the confirmation and initial directors' election,  
8 the temporary directors shall have placed on the ballot the name of  
9 any candidate filing for an initial director's position and blank  
10 spaces to write in the names of other persons. A temporary director  
11 who is eligible to be a candidate may file for an initial director's  
12 position.

13           (c) Section 41.001(a), Election Code, does not apply to a  
14 confirmation election held as provided by this section.

15           (d) Except as provided by this section, a confirmation  
16 election must be conducted as provided by Sections 36.017(b)-(i),  
17 Water Code, and the Election Code.

18           (e) If the district is confirmed at the election, the  
19 temporary directors, at the time the vote is canvassed, shall  
20 declare the qualified person who receives the most votes for each  
21 position to be elected as an initial director for that position and  
22 shall include the results of the initial directors' election in the  
23 district's election report to the Texas Commission on Environmental  
24 Quality.

25           Sec. 8817.023. FIRST ELECTION OF PERMANENT DIRECTORS. On  
26 the first uniform election date prescribed by Section 41.001,  
27 Election Code, in November of an even-numbered year that is at least

1 six months after the date on which the district is authorized to be  
2 created at a confirmation election, an election shall be held in the  
3 district for the election of three permanent directors to serve a  
4 term expiring November 15 following the first election under  
5 Section 8817.052 and four permanent directors to serve a term  
6 expiring November 15 following the second election under that  
7 section.

8 Sec. 8817.024. EXPIRATION OF SUBCHAPTER. This subchapter  
9 expires September 1, 2010.

10 [Sections 8817.025-8817.050 reserved for expansion]

11 SUBCHAPTER B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

12 Sec. 8817.051. DIRECTORS; TERMS. (a) The district is  
13 governed by a board of seven directors.

14 (b) Directors serve staggered four-year terms, with three  
15 or four directors' terms expiring November 15 of each even-numbered  
16 year.

17 (c) Newly elected permanent directors take office at the  
18 first regular meeting of the board after the vote is canvassed.

19 (d) The board shall adopt rules and procedures for the  
20 appointment of a permanent director to fill a vacancy or to complete  
21 an unexpired term.

22 Sec. 8817.052. ELECTION DATE. The district shall hold an  
23 election to elect the appropriate number of directors on the  
24 uniform election date prescribed by Section 41.001, Election Code,  
25 in November of each even-numbered year.

26 [Sections 8817.053-8817.100 reserved for expansion]

1                   SUBCHAPTER C. POWERS AND DUTIES

2           Sec. 8817.101. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. The district has  
3 all of the rights, powers, privileges, authority, functions, and  
4 duties provided by the general law of this state, including Chapter  
5 36, Water Code, applicable to groundwater conservation districts  
6 created under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

7           [Sections 8817.102-8817.150 reserved for expansion]

8                   SUBCHAPTER D. GENERAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

9           Sec. 8817.151. LIMITATION ON TAXES. The district may not  
10 levy ad valorem taxes at a rate that exceeds five cents on each \$100  
11 of assessed valuation of taxable property in the district.

12           SECTION 2. (a) The legal notice of the intention to  
13 introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this  
14 Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a  
15 copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies,  
16 officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished  
17 under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313,  
18 Government Code.

19           (b) The governor has submitted the notice and Act to the  
20 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

21           (c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed  
22 its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor,  
23 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives  
24 within the required time.

25           (d) All requirements of the constitution and laws of this  
26 state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect  
27 to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled

1 and accomplished.

2           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.