

By: Price

H.R. No. 221

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The North Plains Groundwater Conservation District  
2 was honored with the Texas Environmental Excellence Award for  
3 Agriculture on May 2, 2012; and

4 WHEREAS, Presented by the Texas Commission on Environmental  
5 Quality and the Office of the Governor, the Texas Environmental  
6 Excellence Awards celebrate the efforts of citizens, groups, and  
7 organizations in the public and private sectors to preserve and  
8 protect the environment and to prevent waste and pollution; and

9 WHEREAS, The NPGCD, which serves all or part of eight  
10 counties in the northern panhandle of Texas, was honored for its  
11 Reduced Irrigation on Corn Demonstration Project, also known as the  
12 200-12 Project for its goal of producing 200 bushels of corn per  
13 acre with 12 inches of irrigation water; launched in 2010, this  
14 initiative demonstrates irrigation efficiency strategies that have  
15 the potential to conserve at least three inches of water for each  
16 irrigated acre; if these practices were extended to the one million  
17 acres currently in irrigation in the NPGCD, the water saved would be  
18 enough to supply a city the size of San Antonio for a year; and

19 WHEREAS, During the first year of the project, three members  
20 of the NPGCD board implemented the conservation practices on their  
21 own acreage; in 2011, the program was expanded, with funding  
22 provided by the Texas Water Development Board as well as by the  
23 Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Agricultural  
24 Research Service through the Conservation Innovation Grants

1 program; the 200-12 Project will run through 2014; and

2 WHEREAS, The NPGCD was formed in 1955 and was originally  
3 composed of Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, and parts of Hartley,  
4 Moore, and Hutchinson Counties; the district expanded to include  
5 Lipscomb County in 1973 and parts of Dallam County in 1993 and 2004;  
6 headquartered in Dumas, the district works to conserve groundwater  
7 resources, particularly those of the Ogallala Aquifer, which  
8 supplies most of the area's water and which is a finite and  
9 dwindling source; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, the NPGCD works in conjunction with local,  
11 state, and federal agencies and carries out its mission by issuing  
12 water well permits, collecting and maintaining groundwater data,  
13 and performing water quality analyses and well system tests; and

14 WHEREAS, The organization is ably led by general manager  
15 Steve Walthour and benefits from the dedicated work of its staff:  
16 Kristen Alwan, Randy Coon, Christie Frost, Dale Hallmark, Karen  
17 Mannis, Mike Pitts, Pauletta Rhoades, Casey Tice, Odell Ward, Kirk  
18 Welch, and Laura West; providing valuable direction and oversight  
19 are the members of the district board, Bob Zimmer, Gene Born, Brian  
20 Bezner, Danny Krienke, Harold Grall, Phil Haaland, and Wesley  
21 Spurlock; and

22 WHEREAS, With its innovative strategies to reduce irrigation  
23 without lowering crop yields, the North Plains Groundwater  
24 Conservation District is demonstrating exemplary stewardship of  
25 our state's natural resources, and it is indeed worthy of this  
26 prestigious accolade; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas

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1 Legislature hereby congratulate the North Plains Groundwater  
2 Conservation District on its receipt of the 2012 Texas  
3 Environmental Excellence Award for Agriculture and commend all  
4 those associated with the 200-12 Project for their outstanding  
5 work; and, be it further

6       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
7 prepared for the NPGCD as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
8 House of Representatives.