

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*  
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*  
Zak Covar, *Commissioner*  
Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

April 17, 2015

The Honorable Joe Straus  
Texas House of Representatives  
Capitol Station  
PO Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

Re: Responsibility of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Pursuant to Article XVI, Section 59(d), Texas Constitution

House Bill (HB) 4163, as Filed by Representative Mike Schofield -Relating to the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 540; granting a limited power of eminent domain; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments, fees, and taxes

Dear Speaker Straus:

The following comments are provided pursuant to the Constitutional requirements referenced above. Under those requirements, the TCEQ must submit, to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House of Representatives, the TCEQ's recommendations on specific legislation affecting water districts. We recommend that these comments be considered in the evaluation of the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Brookins".

Linda Brookins, Director  
Water Supply Division

cc: Honorable Doug Miller, Chairman, House Committee on Special purpose Districts  
Representative Mike Schofield, Texas House of Representatives

Enclosure

**HB 4163, as Filed by Representative Mike Schofield  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Comments**

The Legislative Budget Board, in cooperation with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), has determined that:

The bill creates Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 540 (the "District") with the powers and duties of a standard municipal utility district under Water Code Chapters 49 and 54.

**Comments on Powers/Duties Different from Similar Types of Districts:** The bill grants the District road powers; and if the bill does not receive a two-thirds vote of all members elected to each house, the District may not exercise the power of eminent domain.

The bill is a companion to SB 1002 filed this session by Senator Kolkhorst.

**Overlapping Services:** TCEQ does not have mapping information for water and/or wastewater providers because this function was transferred from the TCEQ to the Public Utility Commission on September 1, 2014. As a result, TCEQ is unaware of possible overlapping service providers.

**TCEQ's Supervision:** As with general law districts, the TCEQ will have general supervisory authority, including the review of bonds issued by the District (water, wastewater, and drainage facilities only) and the review of financial reports.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE OF TEXAS

HB 4163  
Bill Number

TO: The Honorable Governor of Texas  
SUBJECT: A Bill Relating to a Conservation and Reclamation District

This is to transmit to you and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality copies of a bill relating to a conservation and reclamation district and copies of the notice of intention to introduce the bill. One copy is for your files and one for you to forward to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, under Section 59(d), Article XVI, Constitution of the State of Texas.

4/2/2015

Date transmitted to  
Governor's Office

  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

TO: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
SUBJECT: A Bill Relating to a Conservation and Reclamation District

This is to forward to you a copy of a bill relating to conservation and reclamation district and a copy of the notice of intention to introduce the bill.

April 2, 2015

Date transmitted to  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

  
Governor

TO: The Honorable Speaker of the House  
The Honorable President of the Senate  
The Honorable Governor of Texas  
SUBJECT: A Bill Relating to a Conservation and Reclamation District

Attached are recommendations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in compliance with Section 59(d), Article XVI, Constitution of the State of Texas.

  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



84R HB 04163