

By: Parker

H.B. No. 2508

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the powers and duties of the Alpha Ranch Water Control and Improvement District of Denton and Wise Counties; providing authority to issue bonds, impose a tax, and levy assessments for roadway purposes.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle I, Title 6, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Chapter 9064 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 9064. ALPHA RANCH WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
OF DENTON AND WISE COUNTIES

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 9064.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

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

(2) "City" means the City of Fort Worth, Texas.

(3) "Director" means a board member.

(4) "District" means the Alpha Ranch Water Control and Improvement District of Denton and Wise Counties.

Sec. 9064.002. NATURE OF DISTRICT. The district is a water control and improvement district with road district powers created under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

Sec. 9064.003. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. (a) Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, the following laws apply to the district:

(1) Chapters 49 and 51, Water Code; and

1           (2) Chapter 257, Transportation Code, and other  
2 general laws applicable to road districts created under Section 52,  
3 Article III, Texas Constitution, to the extent those provisions can  
4 apply to the district.

5           (b) If a provision of general law relating to road districts  
6 is in conflict or inconsistent with this chapter or Chapter 49 or  
7 51, Water Code, this chapter prevails.

8                           SUBCHAPTER B. POWERS AND DUTIES

9           Sec. 9064.051. AUTHORITY FOR ROAD PROJECTS. Under Section  
10 52, Article III, Texas Constitution, the district may design,  
11 acquire, construct, finance, issue bonds for, improve, operate,  
12 maintain, and convey to this state, a county, or a municipality for  
13 operation and maintenance macadamized, graveled, or paved roads, or  
14 improvements in aid of or incidental to those roads, including:

- 15                   (1) bridges;  
16                   (2) drainage;  
17                   (3) landscaping;  
18                   (4) lights, signs, or signals; and  
19                   (5) sidewalks or trails.

20           Sec. 9064.052. JOINT ROAD PROJECTS. (a) A district may  
21 contract with a state agency, political subdivision, or corporation  
22 created under Chapter 431, Transportation Code, for a joint road  
23 project.

24           (b) The contract may:  
25                   (1) provide for joint payment of project costs; and  
26                   (2) require the state agency, political subdivision,  
27 or corporation to design, construct, or improve a project,

1 including landscaping, as provided by the contract.

2 Sec. 9064.053. APPROVAL OF ROAD PROJECT. (a) The district  
3 may not undertake a road project authorized by Section 9064.051,  
4 9064.052, or 9064.055 unless:

5 (1) the city has approved the plans and specifications  
6 of the road project, if the city or district will operate and  
7 maintain the road; or

8 (2) the Texas Transportation Commission has approved  
9 the plans and specifications of the road project, if the state will  
10 operate and maintain the road.

11 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (a), the district is  
12 not required to obtain approval from the Texas Transportation  
13 Commission to design, acquire, construct, finance, issue bonds for,  
14 improve, or convey a road project.

15 Sec. 9064.054. ROAD CONTRACTS. The district may enter into  
16 a contract for a road project in the same manner as a road district  
17 under Chapter 257, Transportation Code, except that competitive  
18 bidding for a road project contract is governed by Subchapter I,  
19 Chapter 49, Water Code.

20 Sec. 9064.055. IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND SERVICE IN DEFINABLE  
21 AREA. The district may undertake an improvement project or service  
22 authorized under Section 9064.051 that confers a special benefit on  
23 a definable area in the district and levy and collect a special  
24 assessment on benefited property in the district in accordance  
25 with:

26 (1) Chapter 372, Local Government Code;

27 (2) Chapter 375, Local Government Code; or

1           (3) both chapters.

2           SUBCHAPTER C. GENERAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

3           Sec. 9064.101. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE TAX. (a) If  
4 authorized at an election held under Section 49.107, Water Code,  
5 the district may impose an operation and maintenance tax on taxable  
6 property in the district in accordance with Section 49.107, Water  
7 Code, except that Section 49.107(f), Water Code, does not apply to  
8 reimbursements for a project constructed or acquired under Section  
9 9064.051.

10          (b) The board shall determine the tax rate. The rate may not  
11 exceed the rate approved at the election.

12          Sec. 9064.102. TAX TO REPAY BONDS. The district may impose  
13 a tax to pay the principal of or interest on bonds issued under  
14 Section 9064.151.

15          Sec. 9064.103. ASSESSMENT TO REPAY BONDS. The district may  
16 levy a special assessment to pay the principal of and interest on  
17 bonds issued under Section 9064.151.

18          SUBCHAPTER D. BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS

19          Sec. 9064.151. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS AND OTHER  
20 OBLIGATIONS FOR ROAD PROJECTS. (a) The district may issue bonds or  
21 other obligations payable wholly or partly from ad valorem taxes,  
22 special assessments, impact fees, revenue, grants, or other  
23 district money, or any combination of those sources, to pay for a  
24 road project authorized by Section 9064.051, 9064.052, or 9064.055.

25          (b) The district may not issue bonds payable from ad valorem  
26 taxes to finance a road project unless the issuance is approved by a  
27 vote of a two-thirds majority of the district voters voting at an

1 election held for that purpose.

2 (c) At the time of issuance, the total principal amount of  
3 bonds or other obligations issued or incurred to finance road  
4 projects and payable from ad valorem taxes may not exceed  
5 one-fourth of the assessed value of the real property in the  
6 district.

7 (d) The district may not exercise the power to issue bonds  
8 or other obligations payable wholly or partly from ad valorem taxes  
9 or special assessments to finance projects authorized by Section  
10 9064.051, 9064.052, or 9064.055 until the city adopts an ordinance  
11 or resolution consenting to the exercise of that power.

12 (e) Sections 49.181 and 49.182, Water Code, do not apply to  
13 a project authorized by Section 9064.051, 9064.052, or 9064.055, or  
14 to bonds issued for the project.

15 SECTION 2. The Alpha Ranch Water Control and Improvement  
16 District of Denton and Wise Counties retains all rights, powers,  
17 privileges, authority, duties, and functions that it had before the  
18 effective date of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. (a) The following are validated and confirmed in  
20 all respects:

21 (1) the creation of the Alpha Ranch Water Control and  
22 Improvement District of Denton and Wise Counties; and

23 (2) any act or proceeding of the district, including  
24 an election, not excepted by this section and taken not more than  
25 three years before the effective date of this Act, effective as of  
26 the date on which the act or proceeding occurred.

27 (b) This section does not apply to:

1           (1) an act, proceeding, director, other official,  
2 bond, or other obligation the validity of which or of whom is the  
3 subject of litigation that is pending on the effective date of this  
4 Act; or

5           (2) an act or proceeding that, under a statute of this  
6 state or the United States, was a misdemeanor or felony at the time  
7 the act or proceeding occurred.

8           SECTION 4. (a) The legal notice of the intention to  
9 introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this  
10 Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a  
11 copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies,  
12 officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished  
13 under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313,  
14 Government Code.

15           (b) The governor, one of the required recipients, has  
16 submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on  
17 Environmental Quality.

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

22           (d) All requirements of the constitution and laws of this  
23 state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect  
24 to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled  
25 and accomplished.

26           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.