

By: Campbell

S.B. No. 2292

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the powers and duties of the Meyer Ranch Municipal Utility District of Comal County; affecting an existing limited power of eminent domain; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose fees and taxes.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 6, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Chapter 7989 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 7989. MEYER RANCH MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT OF COMAL COUNTY

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 7989.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "district" means the Meyer Ranch Municipal Utility District of Comal County.

Sec. 7989.002. NATURE OF DISTRICT. The district is a municipal utility district created under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

Sec. 7989.003. FINDINGS OF PUBLIC PURPOSE AND BENEFIT.

(a) The district is created to serve a public purpose and benefit.

(b) The district is created to accomplish the purposes of:

(1) a municipal utility district as provided by general law and Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution; and

(2) Section 52, Article III, Texas Constitution, that relate to the construction, acquisition, improvement, operation, or maintenance of macadamized, graveled, or paved roads, or

1 improvements, including storm drainage, in aid of those roads.

2 SUBCHAPTER B. POWERS AND DUTIES

3 Sec. 7989.051. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. The district has  
4 the powers and duties necessary to accomplish the purposes for  
5 which the district is created.

6 Sec. 7989.052. MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT POWERS AND  
7 DUTIES. The district has the powers and duties provided by the  
8 general law of this state, including Chapters 49 and 54, Water Code,  
9 applicable to municipal utility districts created under Section 59,  
10 Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

11 Sec. 7989.053. AUTHORITY FOR ROAD PROJECTS. Under Section  
12 52, Article III, Texas Constitution, the district may design,  
13 acquire, construct, finance, issue bonds for, improve, operate,  
14 maintain, and convey to this state, a county, or a municipality for  
15 operation and maintenance macadamized, graveled, or paved roads, or  
16 improvements, including storm drainage, in aid of those roads.

17 Sec. 7989.054. ROAD STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS. (a) A  
18 road project must meet all applicable construction standards,  
19 zoning and subdivision requirements, and regulations of each  
20 municipality in whose corporate limits or extraterritorial  
21 jurisdiction the road project is located.

22 (b) If a road project is not located in the corporate limits  
23 or extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, the road  
24 project must meet all applicable construction standards,  
25 subdivision requirements, and regulations of each county in which  
26 the road project is located.

27 (c) If the state will maintain and operate the road, the

1 Texas Transportation Commission must approve the plans and  
2 specifications of the road project.

3 Sec. 7989.055. LIMITATION ON USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN.

4 (a) The district may not exercise the power of eminent domain  
5 outside the boundaries of the district for any purpose unless the  
6 proposed exercise is approved by a written resolution of the  
7 commissioners court of each county in which the district is  
8 located.

9 (b) The district may not exercise the power of eminent  
10 domain before the entire board of directors is composed of  
11 directors elected by the residents of the district.

12 Sec. 7989.056. COMPLIANCE WITH MARCH 2016 AGREEMENT. On  
13 the date the district becomes a permittee under Texas Pollutant  
14 Discharge Elimination System Permit No. WQ0015314001, the district  
15 shall exercise any power necessary to comply with all applicable  
16 terms of the "Settlement Agreement" of March 29, 2016, between  
17 Randolph Todd Company, LLC and:

18 (1) Patricia and Troy Brand;

19 (2) Ellen McClellan;

20 (3) Edward Harris;

21 (4) Phyllis Yvonne Ritter;

22 (5) Carole Farmer;

23 (6) Nelda and Ronald Davis;

24 (7) Susan Dooley Logue;

25 (8) Randall and Nancy Pappas;

26 (9) Daniel and Michele Laroe;

27 (10) Elizabeth Martin;

- 1           (11) Ted Martin;
- 2           (12) Taylor Martin;
- 3           (13) Hector X. Amaya;
- 4           (14) Sabrina Houser-Amaya;
- 5           (15) Franklin Houser; and
- 6           (16) Bonnie Houser.

7           SUBCHAPTER C. BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS

8           Sec. 7989.101. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS AND OTHER  
9 OBLIGATIONS. (a) The district may issue bonds or other  
10 obligations payable wholly or partly from ad valorem taxes, impact  
11 fees, revenue, contract payments, grants, or other district money,  
12 or any combination of those sources, to pay for a road project  
13 authorized by Section 7989.053.

14           (b) The district may not issue bonds payable from ad valorem  
15 taxes to finance a road project unless the issuance is approved by a  
16 vote of a two-thirds majority of the district voters voting at an  
17 election held for that purpose.

18           Sec. 7989.102. TAXES FOR BONDS. At the time the district  
19 issues bonds payable wholly or partly from ad valorem taxes, the  
20 board shall provide for the annual imposition of a continuing  
21 direct ad valorem tax, without limit as to rate or amount, while all  
22 or part of the bonds are outstanding as required and in the manner  
23 provided by Sections 54.601 and 54.602, Water Code.

24           Sec. 7989.103. BONDS FOR ROAD PROJECTS. At the time of  
25 issuance, the total principal amount of bonds or other obligations  
26 issued or incurred to finance road projects and payable from ad  
27 valorem taxes may not exceed one-fourth of the assessed value of the

1 real property in the district.

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

9 (b) The governor, one of the required recipients, has  
10 submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on  
11 Environmental Quality.

12 (c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed  
13 its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, the  
14 lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of  
15 representatives within the required time.

16 (d) All requirements of the constitution and laws of this  
17 state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect  
18 to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled  
19 and accomplished.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.