Jon Niermann, *Chairman*
Emily Lindley, *Commissioner*
Toby Baker, *Executive Director*

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

May 24, 2019

The Honorable Dennis Bonnen
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) 3211, as Filed by Representative Cecil Bell - Relating to the creation of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 34; granting a limited power of eminent domain; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments, fees, and taxes.

Dear Speaker Bonnen:

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,

Cari-Michel La Caille, Director
Water Supply Division

cc: Honorable Tom Craddick, Chairman, House Land & Resource Management Committee
Representative Cecil Bell, Texas House of Representatives

Enclosure

HB 3211, as Filed by Representative Cecil Bell
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:

This bill creates Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 34 (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 District must receive consent to the creation of the District from each municipality in whose corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction the District is located prior to holding a confirmation election; the bill requires the TCEQ to appoint the five initial temporary directors upon receipt of a petition from the owners of a majority of the assessed value of the real property in the district; the bill grants the District authority for road projects; the bill allows the District to divide; the bill specifies that at the time of issuance, the total principal amount of bonds or other obligations issued or incurred to finance road projects and payable from ad valorem taxes may not exceed one-fourth of the assessed value of real property in the District; 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.

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 bond review authority and review of financial reports.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF TEXAS

HB 3211
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.

3/5/2019
Date transmitted to
Governor's Office

Robert Haney
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.

March 6, 2019
Date transmitted to
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Greg Abbott
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