

Brooke T. Paup, *Chairwoman*
Bobby Janecka, *Commissioner*
Catarina R. Gonzales, *Commissioner*
Kelly Keel, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

April 23, 2025

The Honorable Dustin Burrows
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) 5655, as Filed by Representative Gary Gates - Relating to the creation of the Fort Bend County Water Control and Improvement District No. 13; granting a limited power of eminent domain; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments, fees, and taxes.

Dear Speaker Burrows:

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, appearing to read "Michele Risko".

Michele Risko, Deputy Director
Water Supply Division

cc: Honorable Cody Harris, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee
Representative Gary Gates, Texas House of Representatives

Enclosure

**HB 5655, as Filed by Representative Gary Gates
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 Fort Bend County Water Control and Improvement District No. 13 (the "District") with the powers and duties of a water control and improvement district under Water Code Chapters 49 and 51.

Comments on Powers/Duties Different from Similar Types of Districts: The bill grants the District the same powers as similar water control and improvement districts. The bill specifies that the district may not exercise the power of eminent domain outside the district boundaries to acquire a site or easement for a road project or a recreational facility. The bill states that if this Act does not receive a two-thirds vote of all the 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 5655
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.

3/27/2025

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.

March 28, 2025

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



89R HB 05655