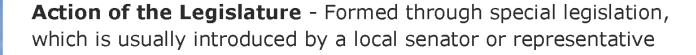
ACA Petition for Annexation Item #12

Who is ACA?
Aquifer Conservation Alliance
ACA Legal Fancher Legal, PLLC

ACA was created to build the strategy



Petition to TCEQ by property owners - Local landowners may petition the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to form a groundwater conservation district.

Initiation by the TCEQ - If local landowners do not take action to create a groundwater conservation district <u>in a priority</u> <u>groundwater management area</u>, the TCEQ can create one.

Addition of territory to an existing district - A group of landowners can petition an existing GCD's board of directors to be annexed into that district. The annexation must be approved by the directors, public hearings must be held and the addition must be confirmed by voters.



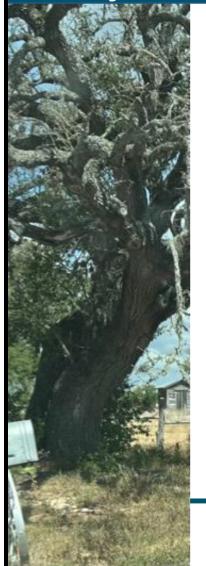
Our goal is to establish a GCD



- Ensure future developments have water
- Protect landowners' existing investments
- Help the county promote healthy growth
- Support local conservation programs
- Bring peace to our community



Why we chose Clearwater UWCD



- Decision making is driven by science
- Operational in months not years
- 20 years of demonstrated success
- Fiscally Conservative
 - % of 1% of Williamson County's annual budget
 - \$10-15 per landowner per year

An effective GCD needs a strong board – Aquifers do not follow county lines.
- Col (ret) Terry Wilson



GCD Creation Options

- Legislative
- > TCEQ Petition
- Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) Designation
- ➤ Annexation into Existing GCD



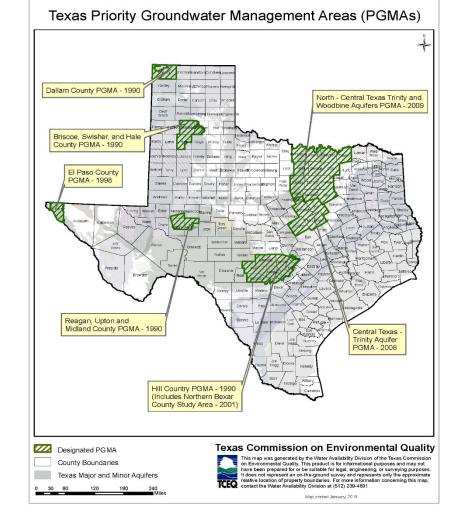
GCD Creation Options

- Legislative Creation Process
 - Passage of bill by the Texas Legislature
- > TCEQ Petition
 - Texas Water Code Sections 36.013 36.015
 - TCEQ Commissioners make decision on whether to create GCD
 - Confirmation election required



PGMA Designation Process

- ➤ First requires designation of a PGMA under Chapter 35 of Texas Water Code
 - TCEQ designates PGMA
 - Example: Southwestern Travis County GCD
- Confirmation election required in territory to be annexed





Annexation into Existing GCD

- ➤ Governed by Subchapter J of Chapter 36, Texas Water Code
- > Petition requirements depend on area
 - Texas Water Code Section 36.325
 - e.g., at least 50 landowners in territory to be annexed
- ➤ Hearings are held within existing GCD and area proposed for annexation
- ➤ After hearings, GCD adds territory by resolution if it finds that "addition of the land would benefit the district and the territory to be added"
- Confirmation election required in area to be annexed



Annexation into Existing GCD

- ➤ Governed by Subchapter J of Chapter 36, Texas Water Code
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- Confirmation election required in area to be annexed



PETITION FOR ANNEXATION TO THE CLEARWATER UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CLEARWATER UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

COMES NOW, the undersigned individuals ("Petitioners"), and present this Petition for Annexation to the Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District ("Petition"), and in support thereof would respectfully show the following:

I. BACKGROUND & GOVERNING LAW

- 1. Pursuant to Texas Water Code ("TWC") § 36.325(a), landowners of a defined area of territory not already in a groundwater conservation district ("GCD") may file with any GCD a petition requesting inclusion in that GCD.
- 2. The District was created by the 71st Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by the enactment of House Bill 3172, Act of May 27, 1989. The District's enabling act is codified in Chapter 8877 of the Special District Local Laws Code.
- 3. The District is a GCD as defined by TWC § 36.001(1) and Special District Local Laws Code § 8877.002.
- 4. TWC § 36.325(b) provides that a petition requesting inclusion in a GCD must be signed by:
 - i. a majority of the landowners in the territory;
 - ii. at least 50 landowners if the number of landowners is more than 50; or

- the commissioners court of the county in which the area is located if the area is identified as a priority groundwater management area or includes the entire county.
- 5. TWC § 36.325(c) provides that a petition requesting inclusion in a GCD must describe the land by legal description or by metes and bounds or by lot and block number if there is a recorded plat of the area to be included in the GCD.
- 6. TWC § 36.326 provides that a GCD's board by order shall set the time and place of separate hearings on a petition to include territory in the GCD, and at least one hearing shall be held in the existing GCD and one hearing shall be held in the territory to be added.
- 7. TWC § 36.327 provides that if the GCD's board finds after the hearings on the petition that the addition of the land would benefit the GCD and the territory to be added, the board may add the territory to the GCD by resolution.
- 8. An election to ratify the annexation must be called pursuant to TWC §§ 36.328 and 36.329 upon the GCD board adding the territory by resolution. The ballot language is set forth in TWC § 36.328 and requires the ballot to list the maximum tax rate that the District is allowed to assess, even if the GCD's adopted tax rate is less than the maximum allowed by law. Section 8877.151 of the Special District Local Laws Code states that the maximum tax rate the District may assess is five cents (\$0.05) per each \$100 of assessed property valuation.
- 9. The District's tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023 is \$0.002708 per each \$100 of assessed property valuation.
- 10. TWC § 36.051(a) provides that the number of directors of a GCD may be changed as determined by the board when territory is annexed by the GCD.

JAN 0 2 2023

II. PETITION

- 11. This Petition meets the statutory criteria for an annexation petition based upon the following:
 - a. Petitioners are landowners of a defined area that is not already within a GCD [TWC § 36.325(a)];
 - b. Petitioners are comprised of more than 50 landowners [TWC § 36.325(b)(ii)];
 - c. Petitioners have signed this Petition and provided verified landowner information attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, which is incorporated herein for all purposes [TWC § 36.325(b)];
 - d. Petitioners have attached hereto as <u>Exhibit B</u> a legal description of the territory to be included in the annexation, which is incorporated herein for all purposes [TWC § 36.325(c)];
- 12. The territory to be added in **Exhibit B** includes all of the land in the portion of Williamson County that is west of Interstate Highway 35. This territory is proposed based upon aquifer characteristics in the western portion of Williamson County and along the Interstate Highway 35 area being similar to those in the District and the majority of water wells and groundwater production in the county being in the western portion of Williamson County.
- 13. Petitioners submit that the addition of the territory to the District would benefit both the District and the territory to be added for numerous reasons, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Common management of the shared resource;
 - b. The economies of scale in sharing the costs of common management of the resource;

- c. Implementing the District's existing regulatory systems; can be accomplished immediately as opposed to waiting many years for the benefits of groundwater management in the territory to be added;
- d. The combination of the tax bases of the District and the territory to be added can result in better and more efficient management of the shared resource; and
- e. The territory to be added can only be represented at Groundwater Management Area 8 ("GMA 8") if it is in a GCD.

III. CONCLUSION AND REQUEST

- 14. Petitioners respectfully request that:
 - a. This Petition be accepted for consideration by the District's Board of Directors and deemed properly filed with the District;
 - b. The District's Board of Directors conduct hearings on the Petition as provided under TWC § 36.326;
 - c. The District's Board of Directors find that addition of the territory proposed for annexation would benefit the District and the territory to be added;
 - d. That the District's Board of Directors approve and memorialize the inclusion of the territory to be added by resolution and call for an election as provided under TWC §§ 36.327 and 36.328; and
 - e. That the District's Board of Directors adopt all other orders, resolutions, acts, and procedures as necessary to accept and approve this Petition and for the addition of the territory set forth in **Exhibit B** into the boundaries of the District.

Exhibit A
Petitioners (Reviewed)

EXHIBIT A

PETITIONERS

The undersigned individuals each own real property within the territory proposed to be added in western Williamson County. The undersigned individuals hereby execute and submit this Petition for the express purpose of requesting annexation to the Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District, and each individual signatory certifies and attests that he/she has the authority to execute this Petition. The signatures may be attached to this Petition in multiple counterparts, each of which is an original signature and together constitute one and the same instrument for purposes of meeting the requirements of Texas Water Code § 36.325(b)(ii).

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Georgetown, TX 78633
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EXHIBIT A

PETITIONERS

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	Printed Name: Dixie MARTIN Signature: Dixie W. Martin
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	Printed Name: Jack Martin Signature: Signature:
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Printed Name: LINDA LARSEN Signature: Signature:
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Printed Name: Rudy Ridolf Signature: S.A. M.
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Printed Name: JSW R. Mc LAUBHUN Signature:
Property Address: 725 CAMP SPRINGS LN GEORGETONN, TX 78633



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Printed Name: Kevin Langford Signature: Liberty Hill. TX 7847
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Property Address: 519 Spring Creek Dr Liberty Hill TX 7812
Printed Name: William McFarland Signature: William McFarland
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Printed Name: Lova Ortiz Signature: Signature:
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CUWCD Map ACA Petition

Created: January 9th 2023, 9:34am

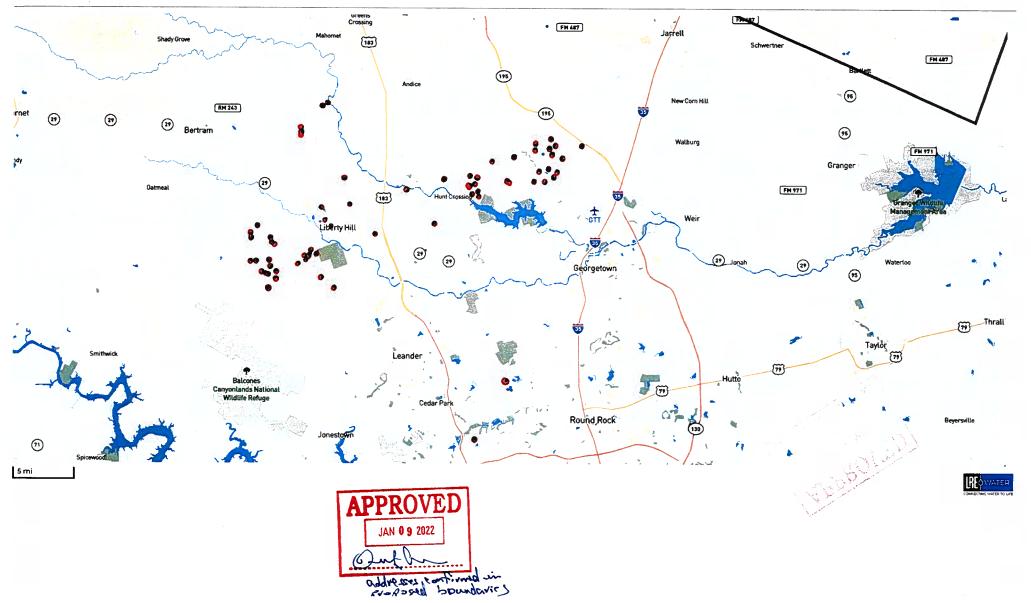


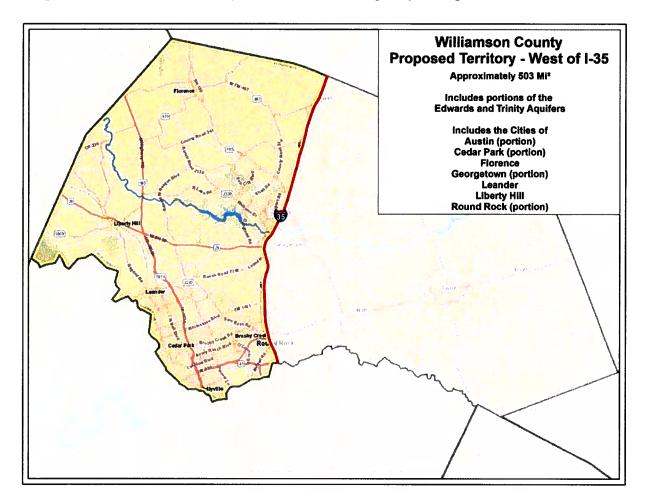
Exhibit B Territory to be Annexed

EXHIBIT B



TERRITORY TO BE ANNEXED

That portion of Williamson County west of Interstate Highway 35 depicted as follows:



Legal Description/Metes and Bounds Description of Territory:

That territory within Williamson County west of Interstate Highway 35, depicted above, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the west right-of-way line of Interstate Highway 35 and the northern Williamson County line;

Continuing south along the west right-of-way line of Interstate Highway 35 for approximately 144,940 feet (27.45 miles) to the point of intersection of the west right-of-way line of Interstate Highway 35 and the southern Williamson County line;

Continuing west along the southern boundary of the Williamson County line to the western boundary of the Williamson County line;

Continuing north along the western boundary of the Williamson County line to the northern boundary of the Williamson County line back to the Point of Beginning, and containing 503 square miles of land, more or less.



CUWCD Legal Analysis Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law

TWC § 36.325 Annexation Petition Requirements

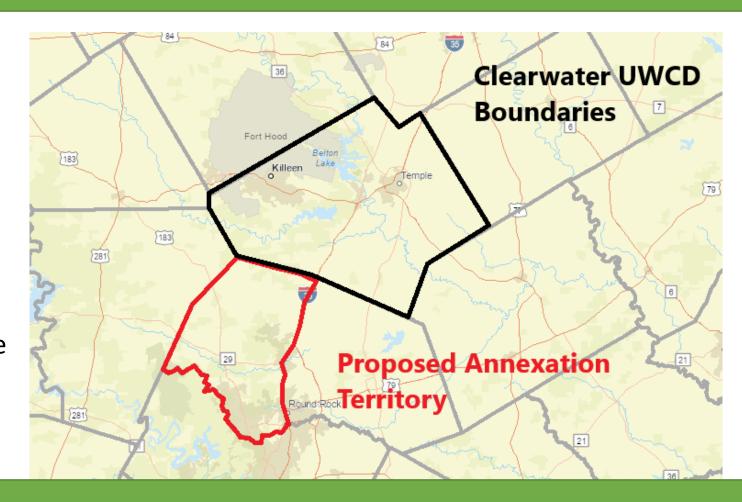
- ➤ Petition must be signed by:
 - >A majority of the landowners in the proposed territory to be annexed,
 - >At least 50 landowners if the number of landowners is more than 50, OR
 - ➤ the commissioners court of the county in which the area is located <u>if</u> the area is identified as a priority groundwater management area or includes the entire county.
- ➤ Petition must describe the land by legal description or by metes and bounds or by lot and block number if there is a recorded plat of the area to be included.





Clearwater UWCD's Legal Obligations

- After receiving a petition to annex territory, the Board must:
 - ➤ Order at least two public hearings, and set the time and for both: one in Bell County, and one in the proposed annexation territory.
 - If after the hearings, the Board believes the proposed annexation would benefit the District, the Board <u>may</u> add the territory by resolution.
 - If the Board adds the territory by resolution, it must call for a ratification election.







Ratification Election

- Annexation is not final until ratified by a majority vote of the voters in the territory to be added. An election in the existing District accept the addition of the land is not required.
- ➤ Ballot must indicate the property tax rate proposed for the territory.

- ➤ Elections may only be held on uniform election dates. The next uniform election date is first Tuesday, May 6, 2023.
- The amount of the tax included in the proposition shall be the maximum amount that the district is authorized to levy (.05 cents per \$100 valuation).
- ➤The Board's current tax rate is ~0.002708 cents/\$100 valuation or \$2.71/yr for a \$100,000 home





Clearwater UWCD's Annexation Timeline

November 2022:

Receive Annexation Petition from Landowners in the proposed annexation area.

December 14, 2022:

Board reviews the petition and sets 2 public hearings as required by Ch. 36.

January 2023:

Board holds 1 public hearing in Bell County, and 1 public hearing in the proposed annexation territory.

At its next meeting, Board adopts annexation resolution and calls for an election to ratify the resolution.

February 17, 2023:

State deadline to call for an election.

May 6, 2023

Election Day





Groundwater Conservation Districts

protecting Investment backed expectations

Ch 36 Texas Water Code Sec. 36.0015

- ...to provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater, and of groundwater reservoirs...
- ...are the state's preferred method of groundwater management in order to protect property rights, balance the conservation and development of groundwater...

