

COLORADO COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO OPPOSE TEXAS SENATE BILL 1631 DURING THE 83RD LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, Rights to the waters of the Colorado River for beneficial use of farming in the lower basin were established over 100 years ago; and

WHEREAS, LCRA has acquired a Water Right Permit for use of water for agricultural irrigation in the lower basin that confirms this historic and legal utilization; and

WHEREAS, Water Management Plans as required by TCEQ have been formulated by the LCRA that determines water availability under drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, due to unprecedented drought conditions in 2011 and 2012 an Emergency Order was formulated by the LCRA that did result in a total cutoff of water for 2012 and 2013 for the Gulf Coast and Lakeside Irrigation Divisions in the lower basin; and

WHEREAS, curtailments of LCRA system water to farmers for 2012 and 2013 has necessitated increased drilling for groundwater in order for farmers to sustain crop viability; and

WHEREAS, increased drilling will ultimately result in more groundwater usage which will in turn stress aquifer conditions not only in Colorado County, but in surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, it was anticipated that other interests in the LCRA system would likewise apply enhanced conservation; and

WHEREAS, no comparable curtailment efforts have been implemented by others in the LCRA system; and

WHEREAS, SB 1631 would impose an ongoing legislative mandate to perpetuate what has previously only been achieved by established Emergency Order procedures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Directors of the Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District is opposed to the approval of SB 1631, which places the entire burden of responding to drought conditions on the lower basin agricultural interests.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Directors of the Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District at its regular meeting on the 17th day of April, 2013.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Kelley".

President, Tom Kelley

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Brasher".

Vice President, Scott Brasher