

Hickory water board to look at San Angelo's applications

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The Hickory Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 board of directors will meet today to consider applications from the city of San Angelo.

At issue are permits to draw water out of a McCulloch County aquifer. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. in the district courtroom at McCulloch County courthouse in Brady.

San Angelo City Manager Tom Adams said the hearing will determine whether the city will be allowed to proceed with a plan to pump as much as 15,000 acre-feet of water from a water field the city purchased in the early 1970s.

Nine of 22 wells the city plans to drill have been completed. But no pumps have been installed, pend-

ing approval of the applications.

"The district is in the process of formulating rules and regulations which will probably place some restrictions on how the water will be used," Adams said.

The city has no immediate plans to draw water from the water field, which extends into Menard and Concho counties. But it will fight any attempt by the water district to restrict water use.

In a 1991 order, state District Judge Curt Steib ruled the water district could not make the city's use of the wells contingent on other available water sources.

Development of the field was delayed while the city pursued the Ivie Pipeline project. Because that project is complete, the city wants to develop the wells so they will be ready whenever they might be needed.

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