

BRADY

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Board Slashes Angelo's Request

Authority to Apply For Water Questioned

Directors of the Hickory Under-ground Water Conservation District, acting Thursday, made drastic cuts in the City of San Angelo's application to produce water from the Hickory aquifer.

San Angelo was seeking a permit to produce water from nine existing wells and 13 proposed wells for a total of 15,011 acre feet annually.

The board's final order limited that to 2,750 acre feet during any calendar year—a reduction of 82 percent.

The order also questioned whether the San Angelo City Council has ever authorized the application for a permit to be filed with the water district.

Brady City Manager Dennis

Smith, said that the Brady side of the table felt that the Hickory Board would sign the proposal.

"They almost had to," he said. "After they made the changes in the proposal from over 15,000 acre feet per year to 2,750 per year we felt that San Angelo would appeal the order. That is when we, immediately after the approval, entered a plea in Judge Karl Prohl's 198th District Court to appeal the order," Smith said.

San Angelo officials were not happy with the amendments on their application. They wanted the option of tapping the aquifer for 15,000 acre

feet annually into the next century. The water would augment the existing supplies in Twin Buttes and O. H. Ivie reservoirs.

Smith said that Brady and other communities think San Angelo's preferred figures were excessive.

"They want to protect their water interests in the aquifer which flows under Mason, Menard, McCulloch, San Saba and Concho counties," he explained.

Smith went on to note that the aquifer is not a renewable source and it concerns other users because "we have a vested interest in it as well."

He noted the case of peanut farmers in the area and said that the approval could put them out of business if the aquifer is drawn down too far.

According to the San Angelo Standard-Times, Mayor Dick Funk was displeased with the ruling. He said the amount of water approved by the board is too small to justify investing in pipelines and pumps.

"We bought something that was quite reasonable, that would be a viable emergency water supply for us, and they essentially have taken it away from us, as far as I am concerned," Mayor Funk said.

Brady officials claim San Angelo failed to show that its council approved the permit application. Brady's attorney, Lynn Sherman of Austin, said that state law requires the endorsement by resolution or ordinance.

He said the applications, submitted in January, were signed by City Manager Tom Adams with no indication of council approval and that the applications therefore were invalid and the water district has no jurisdiction to approve them.

Adams, who attended the meeting Thursday, said the council has

given proper approval, but since he is new to the city, he could not testify when it was given.

The City of San Angelo purchased a well field in McCulloch County in the 1970s to ensure an emergency supply of water. They already have nine capped wells and want to drill 13 more. Most of the wells are on G. R. White's Ford Ranch in southwest McCulloch County, but some are in Concho County on the Noyes Ranch.

Each water board member testified in Thursday's meeting and although they signed the order unanimously, each spoke on reservations about the order prior to the changes they made later.

Board secretary Bert Striegler and

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Water Fight—

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member Larry Lehmborg agreed that water in the year 2016 may become an emergency before that date and before it is based on need for emergency water. Bill Sloan, a director, also agreed.

Brady is the largest user of the aquifer, according to Owen Parks, board president. "And we need to make a decision," he said. Jim Quinn, a board member, noted that the needs should be shown and something done.

Jackie Behrens, McCulloch County Commissioner, asked "why do we have to give San Angelo water?"

Terry Norman, attorney for the water board, suggested that they deny the motion to dismiss the order.

The board voted unanimously to approve the order, but not until they made the changes in acre feet.

Others speaking against approving the order were Dickie Winters of Brady, Kenneth Goldman of Austin and Jackie Behrens of Voca.

The meeting which ended on a "wait and see" note heard Sherman comment that "our point is whenever San Angelo comes up with an application, they have to prove a need. Everyone has to do that, even if you are a peanut farmer. They



Until 1965, the U.S. quarter contained 90 per cent silver and 10 percent copper. Because of the shortage of silver, it now consists of a layer of copper between layers of copper-nickel mixture.

haven't done that yet," Sherman emphasized.

Funk said Brady officials don't understand that access to the water must be in place before the emergency occurs.

Brady Mayor H. L. Gober will head a coalition of the Central Texas communities disputing San Angelo's plans to use the aquifer.

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