

From: Steve Box Executive.Director@envstewardship.org
Subject: Request for an additional GMA-12 Meeting before Public Hearings

SB

Date: March 22, 2021 at 4:46 PM

To: James Totten jtotten@lostpineswater.org, Alan Day aday@brazosvalleygcd.org, David M. Bailey info@mideasttexasgcd.com, Gary Westbrook gwestbrook@posgcd.org, David A. Van Dresar info@fayettecountygroundwater.com

Cc: Eric Allmon eallmon@txenvirolaw.com

Bcc: Steve Box Executive.Director@envstewardship.org

District Representatives,

As recommended by Gary, I am writing to ask that you consider having an additional meeting so that we can tend to some unfinished business regarding surface water impacts before initiating the 90 day Public Comment period. The unfinished business I am referencing has to do with the information presented by INTERA and the proposal that ES provided to you prior to the March 18 meeting.

Surface water impacts: After discussing the INTERA presentation with Ross Kushnereit just a few moments ago, it is clear that there were some “bugs” in the zone budget tool he used that cause the example table and the graphics to be incomplete. Bottom line is that the Graphics and tables that go with the S-12 run will demonstrate that, on a Net flow basis, the Colorado Alluvium Aquifer is predicted to be losing water to the formations by 2070; a reversal in the gain/loss relationship for the Colorado river. Ross is preparing corrected graphics and tables for your review. ES would like to supplement these with some additional information we are preparing.

ES Proposal: Following up on our earlier discussion regarding the need for a quantifiable DFC, ES provided each Representative with a proposal for developing the data to support a surface water DFC for the Colorado Alluvial Aquifer on the evening of March 17. During my presentation I did not go into the details of the proposal since it was only recently provided and it seemed that you should be given a chance to give serious consideration to the proposal before discussion. As such, we have not had the opportunity to discuss this proposal with you and hear your concerns. The Consideration 4 proposal is still on the table without consideration.

Unfortunately, my internet went down just as we were starting discussion on Item 10, so I was not able to participate in the discussion and was not able to return to the meeting until after Item 11. So I was unaware that the S-12 Run had been adopted. Had I been able to participate, I would have reminded the group that our proposal was still on the table and discussion of the surface water impacts was pending for an anticipated next meeting. I then would have requested that we have the additional meeting.

If the Districts are going to substantially increase the risk of unreasonable impacts on surface waters by adopting the S-12 run, then the Districts need to openly recognize that the best science available predicts the *possibility*, and from the information Ross is preparing, the *likelihood* of unreasonable impacts on surface waters due to the S-12 pumping. With that recognition, ES is requesting that the Districts take affirmative steps to avoid or mitigate the potential impacts. This can be done by agreeing to install the monitoring system outlined in ES' most recent proposal and thereby get the data needed to establish a surface water DFC on the Colorado Alluvial Aquifer to protect the river and its tributaries.

As outlined in our proposal, we do not expect that all of this will be accomplished by the end of this round of review. We do expect to have a discussion about how this might be accomplished and come to some agreement on what affirmative steps the Districts are going to take.

Thank you for considering this request.

Steve Box
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