

TESPA

Trinity Edwards Springs
Protection Association

July 10, 2018

To the Hays County Commissioners:

The Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association (“TESPA”) urges you to approve Hays County formally moving forward with Commissioner Lon Shell’s contested case request related to Electro Purification’s proposed permit before the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (“BSEACD”).

Hays County truly is in a dire situation – as unprecedented growth and demand for water threaten to further deplete groundwater resources – impacting local, rural landowners’ property rights, the economy of small towns, such as Wimberley, and the natural resources that define the Texas Hill Country and specifically, Hays County. Commissioner Shell should be commended for stepping forward to represent and protect the citizens of Hays County whose private property rights will be impacted by Electro Purification’s proposed permit as well as the County’s investment in the iconic and tremendously important spring, Jacob’s Well.

The unfortunate reality in Texas is that the interests of rural communities are being subordinated to the demands of growing urban and suburban centers, and nowhere is this more apparent than with groundwater and with Electro Purification’s proposal – which takes groundwater from local landowners who are using it and gives it to subdivisions miles and miles to the east. State groundwater law does nothing to protect the interests of local, rural communities who will be impacted by proposals to export water.

As we will likely see efforts during this upcoming legislative session to erode local management of groundwater and promote regional export and transportation of groundwater, it is imperative that Hays County continue to fight on behalf of its rural landowners and advocate for state elected officials to strengthen rather than undermine our local groundwater conservation districts.

TESPA applauds Commissioner Shell for his courage and willingness to fight, and we urge the Commissioner’s court to support his efforts and vote to approve Hays County moving forward with a contested case related to Electro Purification’s permit application at BSEACD.

Respectfully,



Vanessa Puig-Williams
Executive Director and General Counsel, TESP
vanessa@tespatexas.org

