

Bryan W. Shaw, P.E., Chairman

October 20, 2016

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, MC 100

P.O. Box 13087

Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Chairman Shaw,

This letter is in regard to your consideration of the City of Austin rule-making petition proposing modifications to chapters 222 and 309 of the Texas Administrative Code relating to wastewater effluent disposal via land application. I am requesting that you give favorable consideration to these modifications.

It is no secret that we are having rapid population growth in central Texas. I am sure that you are aware of the water issues we are facing to supply this influx of inhabitants. These issues include, but are not limited to the diminishing supplies of available groundwater and surface water, especially in times of drought. At this time, there is no clear, simple, viable solution to this problem. There are many things that can assist with a solution, conservation being but one of them. Thus, it is imperative that we work together as leaders in our State to utilize every possible aspect of protecting and preserving our groundwater and surface water. I believe that the proposed modifications presented by the City of Austin are a step in that direction. By utilizing more effluent in non-potable reuse, we are taking steps to decrease the use of our potable water resources for purposes that do not require potable water.

There is the additional issue of the rising cost of land for discharging wastewater effluent. For those who treat and discharge wastewater effluent, this is posing increased difficulties in finding such land and being able to purchase it. With the reduction of the amount of treated wastewater effluent to land application due to beneficial reuse, in my mind, it simply makes no sense to require the purchase of land that will not be needed or used for that purpose. Perhaps I over-simplify....

I know that you are receiving other letters in which there is a more in-depth discussion of all the arguments in support of these modifications. I am aware of these and support that information as consideration for the adoption of the above mention rule modifications.

I thank you for your time and look forward to even more efforts on behalf of all of us to manage our growth and still preserve the beauty and integrity of our great State and its natural resources, especially here in the Hill Country.

Sincerely,

Linda Kaye Rogers

(PS, I am writing as a private citizen, but was part of the Stakeholder's group on this project as President of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District)