

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., *Chairman*
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Mark R. Vickery, P.G., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

January 4, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Greg Griffith
Little Sandy Hunting and Fishing Club
170 County Road 3340
Hawkins, Texas 75765

Re: Water Shortage in the Little Sandy Creek Watershed of the Sabine River Basin

Dear Mr. Griffith:

In response to your November 30, 2011 letter making a priority call on surface water in the Little Sandy Watershed of the Sabine River Basin, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has taken the following action.

With no immediate relief forecasted, the TCEQ has suspended certain diversions in the Little Sandy Creek Watershed of the Sabine River Basin. Suspended water rights now include water right permits with a priority date of January 1, 1903, and later (excluding those for municipal uses and power generation), term water right permits, and temporary water right permits. Domestic and livestock diversions are not subject to this suspension.

Water right permits issued with multiple uses may continue to divert water for municipal, domestic, and power generation purposes only. Junior permit holders with impoundments are not required to release any previously stored water and may continue to use that water; however, new inflows to impoundments must be passed downstream in order to meet senior needs.

These actions are guided by the priority doctrine, established in TWC §11.027. The most senior water rights are served first during times of drought with domestic and livestock uses superior to any appropriated rights. Water rights are suspended or curtailed by priority date, with the most recently issued – or “junior” – priority users suspended before senior water rights in the area.

We ask that the Little Sandy Hunting and Fishing Club maintain contact with the TCEQ and provide weekly updates on flows and usage data to Ms. Amy Settemeyer, Water Rights Liaison, at the TCEQ Central Office in Austin at 512-239-2588. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues further, please contact Ms. L’Oreal Stepney, P.E., Deputy Director 512-239-1321.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Vickery".

Mark R. Vickery, P.G.
Executive Director