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Mark R. Vickery, P.G., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

August 19, 2009

The Honorable Carolyn Bilski
County Judge, Austin County
One E. Main Street
Bellville, Texas 77418

Re Possible Curtailment/Suspensions of Permitted State Surface Water Diversions
in the Brazos River Basin

Dear Judge Bilski:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is sending the enclosed letter to all County Extension Agents located within the Brazos River Basin, informing them of possible curtailment/suspensions of permitted state surface water diversions. The letter is intended to inform you and your constituents of certain policy determinants and to solicit your help in disseminating appropriate information to affected parties in your community.

The lack of significant rainfall in the Brazos River Basin and the declining flow of the Brazos River have required the TCEQ to take action to suspend surface water diversions for the protection of senior water rights. Those affected by this action are junior rights holders from 1980 and later, as the most senior rights are served first during times of drought. It is very important to the TCEQ that all residents living and working in the Brazos River Basin are well informed of the situation, especially if it worsens as it is predicted to do. In particular, we want to provide information for residents in rural areas of the Brazos River Basin.

I will keep you informed of any additional actions on this matter. In addition, if you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Ms. Tracy Miller, Water Rights Liaison, at the TCEQ Central Office in Austin at 512-239-4127.

Sincerely,

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

Mark R. Vickery, P.G.
Executive Director

Enclosure