Jason Pool, PE 10334 Parkside Lane Pilot Point, TX 76258

February 26, 2024

Laurie Gharis, Chief Clerk Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Office of the Chief Clerk (MC-105) PO Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087

Re: Contested Hearing request for petition for the creation of White Oaks Municipal Utility District of Denton County: TCEQ Docket No. 2023-1587-DIS

#### Dear Ms. Gharis:

Enclosed is my reply to the responses of (1) The Office of Public Interest Counsel of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, (2) The Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and (3) the Applicant.

This response was also sent on the same day to all individuals on the mailing list, as indicated in the TCEQ letter dated January 31.

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Jason Pool, PE

Tx Lic #92623, Tx Firm #11096

TCEQ #OS0033361 DR

# **Summary**

The application for the creation of the White Oaks Municipal Utility District ("MUD") will be considered during the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality ("TCEQ") public meeting on March 6, 2026. I support the recommendations made by the Executive Director of the TCEQ ("ED") and by the Office of Public Counsel ("OPIC") to grant my request for a contested hearing.

Both the ED and OPIC did a careful analysis, and both found that I, Jason Pool, am an affected person due to the proximity of my land to the proposed MUD and its unique impact on my interests not common to members of the general public. The Applicant's response showed no analysis and only offered a blanket statement that it is their opinion that all 61 requests for contested hearing should be denied.

#### **Background**

The ED determined my house, which is in the Parkside Estates subdivision, to be 0.16 miles from the MUD boundary. I also own two additional lots in Parkside Estates, Lots 5 & 6, and these are adjacent to the proposed MUD (see Exhibit 1).

Due to the land topography, a significant portion of the proposed MUD, 238 acres, funnels stormwater runoff onto my land (see Exhibit 2). A development the size of the proposed MUD will increase storm water drainage quantity, and the quality of that drainage will be worsened due to debris and contaminants associated with residential development runoff. Even with proper stormwater detention and controlling the rate of discharge, the increase in impervious surface coverage due to development will increase the total volume of flow, meaning our land will remain wetter for longer periods of time. This will increase erosion. It is also well established in literature that residential development increases pollutants such as TSS (total suspended solids), TP (total phosphorous), TN (total Nitrogen), and heavy metals (see Exhibit 4).

In determining if a petition should be granted, TCEQ must consider the impact the development will have on (a) land elevation, (b) subsidence, (c) groundwater level within the region, (d) recharge capability of a groundwater source, (e) natural run-off rates and drainage, (f) water quality, and (g) total tax assessments on all land located within a district. My concerns clearly fall under (e) and (f) above.

My land is adjacent to the proposed MUD, and my concerns are interests protected by the law under which the application will be considered. I have a personal justiciable interest in the matter which is not common to the general public, and therefore I should be considered an affected person.

I am a licensed Professional Engineer in civil engineering, with a focus on municipal engineering and land development. I reviewed the Engineering Report submitted by Kimley Horn on November 10, 2022, and the TCEQ Interoffice Memorandum which included the Technical Memo prepared by staff. As a professional engineer, I have the follow comments.

Water Supply Improvements: The proposed MUD falls within the North Texas Groundwater Conservation District ("NTGCD"). The plan calls for up to six wells to be drilled in support of this project, and states it will follow criteria established by TCEQ and Mustang SUD, but omits reference to NTGCD. The drilling of six wells may not be feasible under NTGCD regulation. Using the estimated 2.4 million gallons per day (MGD) maximum hour demand stated in the proposal, NTGCD would require the wells to be spaced up to approximately 1,500 ft away from any other well, new or existing. It is unlikely that six wells and their required buffer zone can fit completely within the boundaries of the proposed MUD under this requirement. A survey of existing wells in surrounding areas is needed before compliance can be determined. There are other requirements for NTGCD, such as consideration of alternative water sources such as surface water, that may not have been satisfied. This calls into question the feasibility of the proposed MUD as submitted.

Wastewater Treatment Improvements & Wastewater Collection Improvements: The proposed MUD states it will follow Denton County Regulations. It does not acknowledge the Lake Ray Roberts Zoning (LRRZ), which is included in the subdivision regulation of Denton County. Approximately 240 acres of the 379 acres in the proposed MUD fall within LRRZ. Under current zoning regulations, a maximum density of 1 acre lots is allowed. The current proposal calls for approximately 1/5 acre lots. Of the portion outside of the LRRZ, their current density would result in 570 ESFCs. Of the portion inside LRRZ, instead of 970 ESFCs, they would be limited to 238 ESFCs. Therefore, under current Denton County regulations, this proposed development would have a total maximum of 808 ESFCs – not 1,540 as proposed. For 808 ESFCs, wastewater treatment capacity of 282,800 GPD would be needed. This is significantly less than the proposed 537,250 GPD wastewater treatment capacity – so only 53% of the proposed treatment capability would be needed. And this could be further reduced since the lots inside LRRZ could utilize onsite sewage facilities (OSSFs) due to the fact that the lots are 1 acre minimum on municipal water. If OSSFs are utilized, the needed treatment plant capacity would be further reduced to 199,500 GPD (only 37% of the proposed capacity), and the wastewater collection improvements would also be significantly reduced. Therefore, the proposed improvements are not feasible and are drastically oversized. This would put an undue burden on the future tax base.

#### Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, I, Jason Pool, request that TCEQ grant my request for a contested case hearing for the White Oaks MUD, as recommended by the ED and OPIC.

Jason Pool, PE

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Exhibit 1: Jason Pool owns land adjacent to the proposed MUD

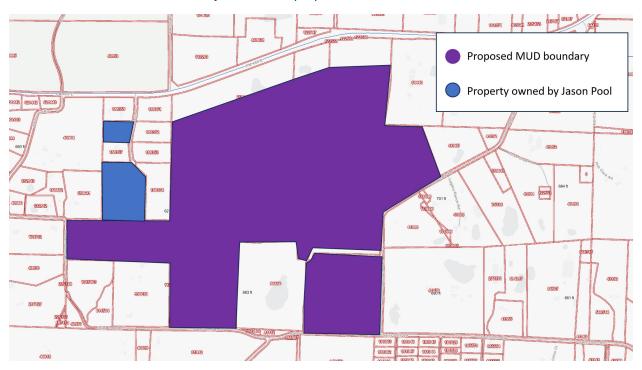
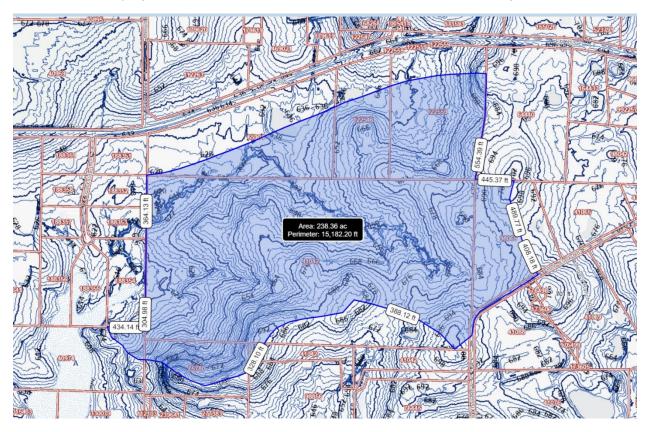


Exhibit 2: Area of proposed MUD that sends stormwater run off onto land owned by Jason Pool



Proposed White Oaks MUD has significant portion in Lake Ray Roberts Zoning (LRRZ)

White Oaks MUD boundary

LRRZ boundary

White Oaks MUD in LRRZ

Approx 280 acres in LRRZ

Approx 379 acres in proposed MuD

Exhibit 3: Portion of Proposed MUD that falls with Lake Ray Roberts Zoning

Exhibit 4: Documentation that residential development increases stormwater runoff pollution

Atasoy, Mary, Pamquist, Raymond B., & Phaneuf, Daniel J. Estimating the effects of urban residental development on water quality using microdata. Journal of Environmental Management 79(2006): 399-408 doi:10.1016/j.jenvman.2005.07.012

• Residential construction adversely affects water quality with respect to each of the pollutants (suspended solids, phosphorus, nitrogen). While there are required control practices, construction still increases runoff and the associated suspended solids and nutrients. New development has a larger effect on TP (total phosphorous) than TN (total nitrogen). This finding is expected given the tendency of phosphorous to bind to particles. Construction would directly increase the amount of sediment entering a body of water and consequently increase the avenues through which phosphorous may enter the system. The density of housing also has a positive and statistically significant effect on TP and TN. The percent of the surrounding land in agriculture also has a statistically significant effect on TN and TP, although not on TSS.

Goonetilleke, Ashantha & Lampard, Jane-Louise "Stormwater Quality, Pollutant Sources, Processes, and Treatment Options" Approaches to Water Sensitive Urban Designs, Woodhead Publishing, 2019, 49 – 74. https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-812843-5.00003-4

• As a consequence of transforming the natural environment into the built environment, vegetated lands are replaced by impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and rooftops.

The increase in impervious areas reduces the volume of rainfall infiltration during storms, resulting in increased volume of stormwater runoff compared to previously vegetated lands.

- As the fraction of impervious surfaces increases, a relatively larger portion of streamflow is
  delivered by stormwater runoff rather than baseflow. During dry weather periods, significant
  pollutant loads can accumulate on urban impervious surfaces, and the accumulated pollutants
  are subsequently mobilized and entrained in runoff during storm events, and transported to
  receiving waters. The transport of pollutants is enhanced because of the increase in stormwater
  runoff volume and flow velocity, and the improved drainage system, thereby degrading the
  quality of urban receiving waters.
- Urban stormwater runoff contains a substantial amount of particulate solids primarily
  contributed by roadside soil. Additionally, automobile-use activities and abrasion products
  generated from different impervious surfaces, such as asphalt and concrete, also produce
  particulate. In addition to increasing the turbidity and sedimentation in receiving water bodies,
  biologically active suspended solids can result in low dissolved oxygen levels and reduced
  photosynthesis, which directly affect aquatic fauna.

Mallin, Michael A., Virginia L. Johnson, and Scott H. Ensign. "Comparative impacts of stormwater runoff on water quality of an urban, a suburban, and a rural stream." *Environmental monitoring and assessment* 159 (2009): 475-491. 475-491 DOI 10.1007/s10661-008-0644-4

Over all sampling periods combined, the urban stream yielded the highest orthophosphate, TSS
(total suspended solids), and surfactant concentrations. Percent watershed development and
percent impervious surface coverage were strongly correlated with orthophosphate, and
surfactant concentrations. These compounds can be attributed largely to anthropogenic sources.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Preliminary Data Summary of Urban Storm Water and Best Management Practices. Chapter 4. 1999 <a href="https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-11/documents/urban-stormwater-bmps">https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-11/documents/urban-stormwater-bmps</a> preliminary-study 1999.pdf, accessed 24 February 2024.

All measured pollutants increase as residential density increase. Typical Pollutant Loadings from Runoff by Urban Land Use (lb/acre-year) shown below.

Land Use	TSS	TP	TKN	NH3N	NO2 +NO3N	BOD	COD	Pb	Zn	Cu
High density residential	420	1	4.2	0.8	2	27	170	0.8	0.7	0.03
Medium density Residential	190	0.5	2.5	0.5	1.4	13	72	0.2	0.2	0.14
Low density residential	10	0.04	0.003	0.02	0.1	NA	NA	0.01	0.04	0.01
Construction	6000	80	NA	NA	NA	Na	NA	NA	NA	NA

TSS: Total Suspended Solids TP: Total Phosphorous TKN: Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen

NH3N, NO2 + NO3N – Nitrogen based pollutants

BOD: Biochemical Oxygen Demand COD: Chemical Oxygen Demand

Pb, Zn, Cu: Heavy metals (Lead, zinc, copper)

NA: Not available

## **Mailing List**

This reply by Jason Pool was filed with the Chief Clerk of the TECQ and a copy was served on the same day to all person listed below either via hand delivery, facsimile transmission, electronic mail, and/or by deposit in the U.S. Mail.

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#### For Public Interest Counsel:

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# For Alternative Dispute Resolution:

**Kyle Lucas** 

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See list starting next page

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