

HB 2080: Update to 30 TAC Chapter 293 Relating to a Petition Requesting Commission Inquiry of a Groundwater Conservation District Plain Language Summary

Introduction

House Bill (HB) 2080 was passed in the 89th Legislature's Regular Session in 2025. This bill amended Texas Water Code (TWC) Section 36.3011 to include additional requirements relating to TCEQ's process for reviewing a petition for inquiry filed by an affected person pertaining to the actions of a groundwater conservation district (GCD).

The bill requires an employee of TCEQ to act as a recording secretary of the review panel. It requires the records and documents of the recording secretary to be provided to the executive director and specifies that they are public information. It clarifies that the review panel is an advisory board and not a governmental body, and it requires the executive director to provide notice of review panel public meetings and public hearings. This legislation also requires TCEQ to reimburse members appointed to the review panel for expenses incurred. Lastly, the legislation states that the review panel may request technical assistance related to the petition from the Texas Water Development Board as well as legal advice and assistance from the TCEQ's Office of Public Interest Counsel; however, the bill does not prohibit the review panel from using its own technical or legal counsel.

The commission is proposing to make changes to Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Section 293.23 to implement this legislation.

Summary

This proposed rulemaking would amend 30 TAC Section 293.23 to be consistent with TWC §36.3011 as amended by HB 2080.

Public Comment and Hearing Information

TCEQ will offer a virtual and in-person public hearing on February 24, 2026, at 2:00 Central Standard Time. This hearing is offered to receive public comments on the proposed rulemaking project HB 2080: Update to 30 TAC Chapter 293 Relating to a Petition Requesting Commission Inquiry of a Groundwater Conservation District (Project No. 2026-001-293-OW).

The hearing will be conducted in English, and instructions for participating in the hearing will also be provided in Spanish. For accommodation needs, contact Sandy Wong, General Law Division at (512) 239-1802 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD) as far in advance as possible.

The comment period for this project opens on January 30, 2026, and closes on March 3, 2026. Submit written comments through the *TCEQ Public Comments* system at

<https://tceq.commentinput.com/>. Comments for the proposed rulemaking must reference **Rule Project Number 2026-001-293-OW**.

The proposed rulemaking documents can be found on the TCEQ's website at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/prop.html>.

For more information about the proposal or to get help with submitting written comments, contact Cindy Hooper, Rule Project Manager, at (512) 239-4271 or Cindy.Hooper@tceq.texas.gov.