



Building Central Texas Communities ☆ One Home at a Time.

Travis Co. Commissioners Court Approve on Controversial Groundwater Rules, Effective Immediately

Limits Impervious Cover, Affecting Residential & Commercial Development

February 2, 2012

Last Tuesday, Travis County Commissioners unanimously approved [sweeping changes to the county's groundwater availability rules](#). The rules went into effect immediately.

The vote was taken a week after a lengthy public hearing that capped several months of stakeholder meetings in which the HBA was represented by Past President Hank Smith. The changes will drastically affect residential and commercial development.

The HBA had a number of members that opposed proposed limits on impervious cover, regulating water use density when surface water is used and attempts to skirt statutes that limit county authority for most of the proposed changes.

The court believes it has the legal right to enact state changes. Back in October, the Texas Association of Builders sent a [letter to Travis County](#) questioning the legality of the proposed amendments. The HBA also sent a [letter](#) outlining concerns. In addition, the Texas House Committee Chair on Natural Resources also asked [the Texas Attorney General for an opinion on the rules changes](#).

State Representative Paul Workman had asked the Court to hold off on the rules changes since he is sponsoring a bill next legislative session to create a groundwater conservation district. His request was ignored.

The HBA thanks Hank Smith for dedicating dozens of hours of time and expertise for the stakeholder committee.

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