RESOLUTION NO. #24-005

LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2025 WATER USE FEES FOR THE LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THE RULES OF THE LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY §

WHEREAS, the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District ("District") was created by the Legislature of the State of Texas in Acts 2001, 77th Leg., R.S., ch. 1321, p. 3246, § 1(a), as amended (the "Enabling Act"), as a groundwater conservation district operating under Chapter 36, Texas Water Code, and the Enabling Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Enabling Act, § 5(a), the District Board of Directors of the District (the "Board") has the permitting and general management powers granted under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code;

WHEREAS, § 36.101 of the Texas Water Code authorizes a groundwater conservation district to make and enforce rules to provide for conserving, preserving, protecting, and recharging of the groundwater or of a groundwater reservoir or its subdivisions in order to control subsidence or prevent waste of groundwater and to carry out the powers and duties provided by Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code;

WHEREAS, §§ 36.205 and 36.122 of the Texas Water Code and the Enabling Act authorize the District to assess fees on the production of groundwater within its jurisdiction and for the transfer of such water for use outside of the District;

WHEREAS, the assessment of such fees serves a legitimate regulatory purpose;

WHEREAS, the rules of the District authorize the Board to establish by resolution a regulatory water use fee to accomplish the purposes of the District;

WHEREAS, the rules of the District authorize the Board to establish by resolution a groundwater transport fee for the transportation of groundwater out of the District;

WHEREAS, the District staff have worked diligently to forecast all reasonably anticipated revenues, expenses, and activities; and after giving much consideration to these important factors, the Board recommends a regulatory water use fee of $0.085 per 1,000 gallons for all groundwater permitted in the Chicot, Evangeline, and Jasper Aquifers, other than agricultural use for the calendar year 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

1. The following fees are hereby adopted as the regulatory water use fees of the District for calendar year 2025.

   - A regulatory water use fee of $1 per acre-foot of groundwater permitted in any aquifer for "agricultural use" as that term is defined by § 36.001(20), TEX. WATER CODE ANN. (Vernon Supp. 2004);

   - a regulatory water use fee of $0.085 per 1,000 gallons for all uses, other than "agricultural use", of groundwater permitted in the Chicot, Evangeline, and Jasper Aquifers; and

   - a regulatory water use fee of $0.06 per 1,000 gallons for all uses, other than "agricultural use", of groundwater permitted in the Catahoula Aquifer,

2. Notwithstanding subsection(1), in the event that the application of these adopted rates results in a total annual regulatory water use fee payment of less than ($10.00) for an individual permit issued by the District, the regulatory water use fee payment to be assessed to such a permit shall be the Minimum Regulatory Water Use Fee, which is hereby established as ($10.00) and so adopted.

3. The District shall impose a 50 percent export surcharge in addition to the District's regulatory water use fee for in-District use for transportation of groundwater for use outside of the District, subject to the Enabling Act and District Rules. Such fees set forth above shall be assessed as set forth in the Rules of the District for the time period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025;

4. The regulatory water use and groundwater transport fees so adopted shall be effective January 1, 2025, and continue in effect until modified by the Board;

5. The regulatory water use and groundwater transport fees so adopted shall supersede any and all such fees previously adopted by Resolution or other action of the Board; and

6. The General Manager is further authorized to take any and all reasonable action necessary for the implementation of this resolution.

7. The Board reserves the right to review these fees as needed and make changes by resolution at any time.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of August 2024.

LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____
James Spigener, President

ATTEST:

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Janice Thigpen, Board Secretary