RESOLUTION NO. #21-009

LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE PURSUANT TO TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.127(K)

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, Tex. Gov't Code §551.127(k) authorizes a governmental body to allow a member of the public to participate or testify at a meeting from a remote location by videoconference call.

WHEREAS, the District constitutes a governmental body within the meaning of section §551.127(k) of the Texas Government Code (the "Open Meetings Act").

WHEREAS, the District has been allowing the public to participate remotely via the Zoom videoconferencing platform during the time Governor Abbott has temporarily suspended certain provisions of the Open Meetings Act laws due to the novel coronavirus;

WHEREAS, Governor Abbott's temporary suspension of certain Open Meetings Act provisions shall be lifted on September 1, 2021, such that all provisions of the Open Meetings Act will be in full force and effect on September 1, 2021 including section 551.127(k) authorizing participation from a remote location via videoconference;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the District found that allowing public participation via videoconference during the coronavirus pandemic resulted in greater public participation during meetings;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the District would like to continue to encourage full public participation in its meetings; and therefore, the Board would like to formally approve public participation via the Zoom videoconference platform on a regular basis;

WHEREAS, the District already livestreams all of its meetings and archives those recordings on its website, which are accessible at all times to the public in an effort to promote full transparency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the District believes that allowing public participation remotely via videoconference on a regular basis will also promote its goal of full transparency.

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

1. In addition to the opportunity to participate in person, the District will offer an option for the public to participate or testify at its meetings during public comment via videoconference on a permanent basis unless changed by a future resolution.

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

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of August 2021.

LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____
Harry Hardman, President

ATTEST:

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Larry A. Rogers, Board Secretary