LONE STAR
GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

July 9, 2020

MINUTES OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The Board of Directors of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District ("District") met in regular session, open to the public held via a publicly accessible webinar/telephone conference call, within the boundaries of the District on July 9, 2020.

CALL TO ORDER:

General Manager, Samantha Reiter, began the Public Workshop at 3:03 PM announcing the meeting open to the public and that the workshop had been properly noticed.

ROLL CALL:

The roll call was omitted as quorum not necessary for workshop.

In attendance at said meeting were Samantha Reiter, General Manager; Stacey V. Reese, District Counsel; James Beach, Mike Keester and Mike Thornhill, District consultants; District staff and members of the public. *Copies of the public sign-in sheets and comment cards received are attached hereto as Exhibit "A".*

PRESENTATION ON SUBSIDENCE STUDY PHASE 1 DRAFT REPORT AND PHASE 2 SCOPE OF WORK FROM DISTRICT'S TECHNICAL CONSULTING TEAM:

Ms. Reiter introduced the District consultant, Mike Thornhill as the presenter for the Subsidence Study Phase I Report. He reviewed the one-page Subsidence Study – Phase I, and briefly detailed the initial step in assessing the past and present investigations of the subsidence documents concentrating on Montgomery County. A *copy of the study summary is attached hereto as Exhibit "B".*

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Reiter acknowledged the receipt of two edited documents from Jonathan Smith of Porter Special Utility District. The revisions are for *LSGCD Subsidence Study – Executive Summary and LSGCD Subsidence Study – Phase 1 – Assessment of Past and Current Investigations*. A copy of the revisions are attached hereto as Exhibit "C" and "D".

John Yoars, resident of the Grogan's Mill Village of The Woodlands, cited three topics of concern: the Texas Water Code 36; the current subsidence readings; and the LSGCD

Management Plan. He suggested that the Phase 2 study focus on current aquifer response habits rather than theoretical outcomes. A copy of his comments is attached hereto as Exhibit "E".

Ron Kelling, of SJRA, shared two issues he had with the Phase 1 study; the inadequate timetable and the LSGCD consultants' mixed message regarding the correlation of subsidence to compaction in the Jasper aquifer relating to pumpage. A copy of his comments is attached hereto as Exhibit "F".

Neil Gaynor, resident of The Woodlands, commented on the Executive Summary Conclusion and asked that the subsidence related flood risk due to accelerated aquifers related pumping be fully considered in Phase 2 of the study. He asked that LSGCD form a partnership with the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District on the duration of the study. A copy of the comments is attached hereto as Exhibit "G".

Lisa Gonzalez, President and CEO of Houston Advance Research Center (HARC), requested that an additional 30-day period be given for review of the LSGCD Subsidence Study. She stressed the importance of using critical and relevant studies as well as peer review since these provide the scientific foundation for the groundwater management plan. Further, she advocated for strong stakeholder input throughout the Phase 2 development.

Mike Turco, General Manager at Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, highlighted several considerations of compaction in the Jasper aquifer: clay, sediments, historical measurement of subsidence in southern Montgomery County; InSAR data; and the recent reduction of groundwater use in The Woodlands. Further, he raised a question as to the credibility of Mr. Keester's portion of a presentation made at the May GMA 14 meeting. He extended his willingness to collaborate work with the District on the LSGCD Subsidence Study. A copy of the comments is attached hereto as Exhibit "H".

Simon Seguiera, of Quadvest, cited the 5th Circuit Court case; Brazos GCD vs. Frazzino. He quoted from the decision that "groundwater rights are property rights". He suggested that there were only two ways to limit or manage groundwater pumpage – either cut back and allocate by aquifer boundary or allocate groundwater pumpage based on land size.

Webb Melder, citizen of Montgomery County, thanked everyone for their participation. His concerns were phrased with four questions; what subsidence studies have been conducted solely by LSGCD's previous Board of Directors; had SJRA provided LSGCD with any of their subsidence study information; did SJRA suggest installing extensometers in The Woodlands; and what were the plans to reduce subsidence in areas of south Montgomery County. A copy of the comments is attached hereto as Exhibit "I".

Ms. Reiter recognized the attendance of three LSGCD directors: Harry Hardman, Larry A. Rogers and Jim Spigener. Mr. Thornhill announced that the WSP consultant group would be joining the Subsidence Study Phase 2. Mr. Reiter also thanked everyone for their input and assured all comments would be reviewed by the Board.

General Manager, Samantha Reiter, adjourned the public workshop at 4:33 PM.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 14th DAY OF JULY 2020.

/s/ Larry A. Rogers

Larry A. Rogers, Board Secretary