

*State of Texas
County of Williamson
Know all men by these presents:*

PROCLAMATION

That on the 17th day of June, 2014 the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas met in duly called session at the Williamson County Courthouse, 710 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas, with the following members present:

Dan A. Gattis, County Judge
Lisa L. Birkman, Commissioner Precinct One
Cynthia P. Long, Commissioner Precinct Two
Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct Three
Ron Morrison, Commissioner Precinct Four

And at said meeting, among other business, the Court considered the following:

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) have proposed a new rule to define “waters of the United States” that will vastly expand the jurisdictional authority of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), entitled “Definition of “Waters of the United States”” Under the Clean Water Act;

WHEREAS, USEPA and USACE have chosen to selectively interpret various Supreme Court decisions related to the jurisdictional authority of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in order to develop a new Guidance which expands their own jurisdictional authority under the CWA to include waters of the state(s) and other waters previously not regulated under either the CWA or judicial proclamation, including some ditches, farm ponds, dry water ways and isolated wetlands;

WHEREAS, the proposed rule, if adopted will infringe upon the sovereignty of state(s) to appropriately regulate waters of the state(s);

WHEREAS, the proposed rule, if adopted would require Counties and special districts to obtain costly and burdensome Section 404 Permits from the USACE for the construction of small bridges and culverts, and routine maintenance of some ditches, canals, and other such water conveyances;

WHEREAS, the proposed rule, if adopted would infringe on private property rights, impairing land management activities such as urban development and agriculture production;

WHEREAS, legislation to expand the jurisdictional authority of the CWA as described in the proposed rule has failed in the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, the USEPA and USACE have been criticized by both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives for enacting expansive rules without congressional oversight;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT Williamson County strongly opposes the proposed new rule to define “waters of the United States” in that it increases the need for burdensome and costly permitting requirements, infringes on private property rights, and circumvents the legislative process, thus, the will of the people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Congress, not federal agencies, make the laws and therefore any such change in jurisdictional power of the federal government should only occur as a result of the passage of federal legislation.

Resolved this 17th day of June, 2014.

Dan A. Gattis, County Judge

Lisa Birkman, Commissioner Precinct 1

Cynthia Long, Commissioner Precinct 2

Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct 3

Ron Morrison, Commissioner Precinct 4