

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



PONCHO NEVÁREZ

DISTRICT 74

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MAR 06 2017

Texas Water Development Board

February 27, 2017

Bech Bruun
Chairman
Texas Water Development Board
1700 N. Congress Ave
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Chairman:

Thank you for participating in discussions over the interim on the unique water resource challenges in Val Verde County. I appreciate your efforts as well as those of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Commission) and Texas Parks and Wildlife (Parks) in assisting my constituents, my staff, and me on these issues.

As you know, Val Verde County has struggled to identify a path to fairly and effectively manage their groundwater resources. I am requesting your continued assistance in solving these challenges my constituents face.

Two recently state-issued reports are relevant to my request:

- (1) The "Priority Groundwater Management Areas and Groundwater Conservation Districts report to the 85th Legislature" by the Commission and your agency which states that "Val Verde County and the Devils River were discussed as potential areas of concern and may need follow up PGMA assessment *as more data becomes available*" [emphasis added].
- (2) The "Texas Aquifers Study: Groundwater Quantity, Quality, Flow, and Contributions to Surface Water" report published by your agency which shows that Val Verde County has substantial groundwater-surface water interaction and is among the top three counties in the state with the most springs classified as large.

I believe that more scientific information assembled and analyzed by a respected independent third party such as your agency for Val Verde County, the Devil's River and San Felipe Springs is what we need to move the process forward. Therefore, I am asking your agency to provide an overview of the hydrogeology in the county, similar to what would be required for a PGMA evaluation, and to provide an assessment of the feasibility of employing hydrologic triggers to manage the aquifer. I would like your agency to take the lead on this effort, but I would also like you to include the Commission and Parks as agency stakeholders and to hold meetings in Val

Verde County with local stakeholders as you conduct your review and develop a final report. Ideally, this report should be finished before the next legislative session begins—earlier if possible.

This report would be of great help to us in Val Verde County. I am hopeful that your analysis will illuminate a local path forward for water management as well as providing information to you and the Commission as you consider a formal PGMA assessment in the future.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Poncho Nevarez', followed by a period.

Poncho Nevarez