



State OKs water district

Water district legislation requested by Calhoun County commissioners has been approved by the House of Representatives.

SB 1891/HB 3587 has also been approved by the Senate and now it must be approved by Calhoun County voters, Texas House District 32 Rep. Gene Seaman said Thursday.

If it is approved, the bill will authorize the creation of the La Salle Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 in Port O'Connor.

"This legislation was passed in an unprecedented amount of time having been filed on May 2," Seaman said.

Commissioners on May 14 approved the resolution supporting the creation of a new Conservation and Reclamation District in the Port O'Connor area. The resolution was sent to the lieutenant governor and the Texas Legislature.

If approved, the district will encompass the Bauer La Salle Ranch property near Port O'Connor that is being developed into a subdivision.

In the resolution, commissioners said they believe the creation of the district and the subdivision it will encompass will be of economic benefit to the county. It will provide for infrastructure in the development of waterfront properties.

The creation of the district will allow for the new district to enter into inter-local agreements with the Port O'Connor Municipal Utility District, the Guadalupe/Blanco River Authority or any other entity for water, drainage, roads and sewer services.

"This would allow the owners of the property to develop a water control and improvement district," Calhoun County Judge Michael Pfeifer said.

According to Pfeifer, five board members must be elected to serve on the district's board if it is created.

"All landowners in the area must join in consent for the water control improvement district," he said.

SB 1891/HB 3587 names a board of temporary directors, which include: Douglas A. Baker; Bill Bauer Jr., Waymond Boyd, Lawrence A. Korenek and Edwin A. Wagner. The temporary directors will be charged with holding an election to confirm the creation of the district and to elect five directors to manage the newly created district.

Seaman, in his news release to the media Thursday, said he worked extremely close with Sen. Ken Armbrister and local attorney David Roberts, chairman of the board for the Calhoun County Economic Development Corporation, to move the bill through the process as quickly as possible.

"We were very focused on this bill, because of the extraordinary amount of economic development that it will facilitate in Calhoun County," said Seaman.

The legislation was initiated by Roberts and Sen. Armbrister, who carried the bill through the Senate.

"SB 1891/HB 3587 will take effect immediately and the election is to be held as soon as all of the temporary directors have qualified and been affirmed to act on behalf of the district," Seaman said.

"I am so pleased that we could get this accomplished for Calhoun County this legislative session. I am confident that this district will provide the means necessary to promote growth and economic development. I very much appreciate the work of all those involved in the passage of this legislation."