
Allowing certain utilities to use water from the Edwards Aquifer

HB 1806 by T. King (Campbell)

Digest

HB 1806 would have allowed a retail public water utility that was an initial regular permit holder and whose service area was wholly or partly inside the boundaries of the Edwards Aquifer Authority to use water withdrawn from the aquifer to provide retail water service in a county adjacent to the boundaries of the authority within the utility's certificated service area. The San Antonio Water System would have been authorized to sell up to 6,000 acre feet of water withdrawn from the aquifer per year at wholesale to a retail public utility or river authority for use in any county adjacent to Bexar County. If the water was sold for use in Kendall County under certain circumstances, the water system would have been required to obtain consent of the Kendall County Commissioners Court for a sale of water under the bill.

Notes

The HRO analysis of [HB 1806](#) appeared in Part Two of the April 25 *Daily Floor Report*.

Governor's reason for veto

“House Bill 1806 would allow the San Antonio Water System to sell water from the Edwards Aquifer to adjacent counties, many of which are outside the regulatory jurisdiction of the Edwards Aquifer Authority, without any input from other permit holders or the governing board of the Edwards Aquifer Authority. The goal of the Edwards Aquifer Act, which was passed by the 73rd Legislature, was to treat all permit holders equally. This bill goes in the opposite direction by elevating the rights of one user above all others. Vetoing this bill maintains the careful balance of water rights within the Edwards Aquifer Authority and ensures that the resources of the aquifer remain protected.”

Response

Neither **Rep. Tracy O. King**, the bill's author, nor **Sen. Donna Campbell**, the Senate sponsor, had a comment on the veto.
