

Resolution No: 2026-06

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE CARRIZO-WILCOX AQUIFER IN NORTHEAST TEXAS
A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS,
SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO CREATE A REGIONAL GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR THE PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT, AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE CARRIZO-WILCOX AQUIFER IN NORTHEAST TEXAS; PROVIDING FOR A USER-FUNDED STRUCTURE WITH NO AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, groundwater is one of the most valuable natural resources in the State of Texas and is essential to the public health, safety, economic prosperity, agriculture, industry, and quality of life of the citizens of Northeast Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is recognized by the Texas Water Development Board as one of the major aquifers of Texas and serves as a critical source of water for municipal, rural, agricultural, commercial, and industrial users across a large portion of East and Northeast Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer extends beneath multiple counties in Northeast Texas, and groundwater resources do not recognize political boundaries or county lines; and

WHEREAS, significant portions of Northeast Texas overlying the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer currently lack a regional groundwater conservation framework capable of ensuring consistent long-term management, planning, monitoring, conservation, and protection of this shared resource; and

WHEREAS, increasing demands for groundwater from large-scale commercial and industrial users, including proposed high-volume export projects, data centers, and long-distance water transfer initiatives, present growing concerns regarding the long-term sustainability and availability of groundwater resources for the citizens, landowners, farmers, ranchers, businesses, and communities of Northeast Texas; and

WHEREAS, recent public discussions and reporting regarding groundwater export proposals and large-scale pumping projects involving the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer have heightened concerns among local governments and citizens regarding the need for local and regional oversight, representation, and management authority; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Water Development Board has conducted extensive studies and groundwater availability modeling for the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer demonstrating the importance of scientific data, regional planning, and sustainable groundwater management practices; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code recognizes groundwater conservation districts as the preferred method of groundwater management in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a regional groundwater conservation district would provide Northeast Texas counties and citizens with a local and regional mechanism to responsibly manage groundwater production, collect scientific data, participate in regional water planning, protect private property rights, and preserve water availability for future generations; and

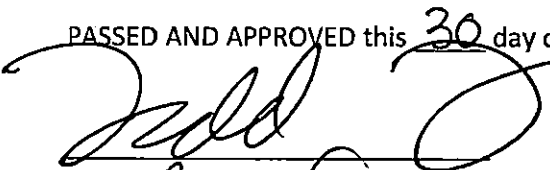
WHEREAS, the proposed regional groundwater conservation district is intended to operate as a user-funded conservation district supported through fees associated with groundwater production and permitting activities, and not through the imposition of an ad valorem property tax; and

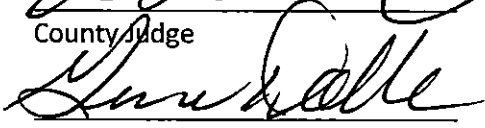
WHEREAS, the citizens of Northeast Texas have a compelling interest in ensuring that local groundwater resources remain available to sustain rural communities, economic development, agriculture, timber production, municipal growth, and future generations of Texans;

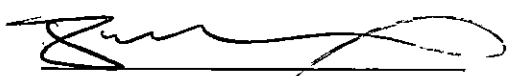
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT:

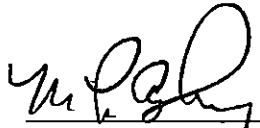
1. The Commissioners Court of UPSHUR County hereby supports the creation by the Texas Legislature of a regional groundwater conservation district encompassing appropriate portions of Northeast Texas overlying the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer.
2. The proposed district should be structured to provide for responsible regional groundwater management, conservation, monitoring, and protection of the aquifer utilizing sound science, local representation, and regional cooperation.
3. The Commissioners Court supports a user-funded structure for the district utilizing production fees, permit fees, and other lawful revenue sources authorized under Texas law, with no ad valorem property tax imposed by the district.
4. The Commissioners Court urges the Texas Legislature and members of the Northeast Texas legislative delegation to support legislation establishing a regional groundwater conservation district designed to preserve and protect the long-term sustainability of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer for the benefit of the citizens of Northeast Texas and the State of Texas.
5. The County Judge is authorized to provide copies of this resolution to the Governor of Texas, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, members of the Texas Legislature, the Texas Water Development Board, and neighboring counties and regional stakeholders.

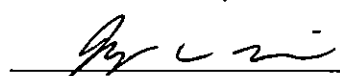
PASSED AND APPROVED this 30 day of June, 2026.


County Judge

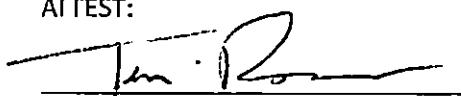

Commissioner, Precinct 1


Commissioner, Precinct 2


Commissioner, Precinct 3


Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:


County Clerk