

Item 5 – Legislative Update – May 2019 (End of Session)

Filing date for all bills during the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session ended Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. There a number of bills that have been filed which directly affect the District. Each of the listed bills have been considered and position adopted. Listed is the current status of the bill and work done to implement board directions. They include:

**HB 1066** by Ashby - Relating to extensions of an expired permit for the transfer of groundwater from a groundwater conservation district – SUPPORT Passed by House 4-3-19; Referred to SWRAC 4-8-19. **Signed by Governor; effective date of 9-1-19**

**HB 722** by Larson – Relating to the production of brackish groundwater – NEUTRAL CSHB 722 passed HRNC 4-2-19. **Sent to Governor 5-26-19;**

**\*\*\*SB 65** by Nelson - Requires political subdivisions to post expenditures for lobbying efforts (budget with year over year comparison) and the executed contract for lobbying services on the District website; **Sent to Governor 5-25-19;**

**HB 726** by Larson – Omnibus bill relating to the regulation of groundwater – SUPPORT CSHB 726 passed out HNRC 3-26-19; **Died**

**HB 2122** by Harris – Use of CCN by public water suppliers (must control water rights) NEUTRAL (Bill remains pending in committee); **Died**

**HB 2123** by Harris – Petitioning the District for rule making NEUTRAL (engage for improvement). Committee substitute considered allowing rules petition to be heard in a hearing or regular board meeting and removed appealable language. Committee substitute passed HRNC 4-2-19; **Died**

**HB 2125** by Burns – Awarding of Attorney Fees in suits (Award capped at \$100,000) NEUTRAL (engage to improve language). CSHB 2125 considered 4-2-19 removing cap; bill left pending); **Died**

**HB 2249** by Lucio – Use of CCN by public water suppliers (no control of water rights) OPPOSED. Bill heard in HNRC 3-26-19. GM testified opposing the bill. Left pending in committee); **Died**

**HB 3998** by Wilson – Transferring regulation of groundwater to the TWDB - OPPOSED (bill **referred to HNRC 3-21-19** but not heard in committee); **Died**

**HB 4570** by Larson – Establishing a groundwater/surface water advisory committee – SUPPORT. Bill heard in committee 4-9-19; Passed out on Committee. Sent to Calendars 4-22-19; **Died**

**\*\*\*HB 2527** by Leach – Relating to a requirement that certain water districts make audio and video recordings of open meetings available on the Internet. Referred to County Affairs. CSHB 2527 heard in Committee

- 4-18-19. Reported favorably; **Died**
- SB 800** by Perry – Identical to HB 1066 – SUPPORT (Referred to SWRAC 3-1-19; not heard in committee); **Died**
- SB 851** by Perry – Awarding of Attorney Fees in suits (Award capped at \$250,000) – NEUTRAL (engage to improve language). Bill passed by Senate 4-17-19. Referred to HNRC 4-24-19; **Died**
- SB 1010** by Perry – Adopting Rules Similar to Rules of Other Districts in the GMA – SUPPORT. Passed by Senate 4-4-19; Referred to HNRC 4-8-19). We have working closely with the SWRA committee coordinator to improve language in the bill. We will be involved in a stakeholder meeting with Senator Perry to continued discussions of improving the language 4-18-19. Dropped card in support (SWRAC); GM testified “On” the bill 5-14-19; **Died**
- SB 2026** by Perry – Identical to HB 2122 – NEUTRAL. Passed by Senate 4-29-19. Referred to HNRC 5-2-19. **Died**
- SB 2027** by Perry – Standard of judicial review for groundwater de novo - OPPOSED Heard in SWRA committee 4-15-19. Left pending in committee. Sen. Perry indicated this would be addressed and worked on in the Interim; **Died**
- \*\*\*SB 1732** by Paxton - Relating to a requirement that certain water districts make audio and video recordings of open meetings available on the Internet. Referred to Business & Commerce 3-14-19. Passed out of Committee. Placed on Local & Uncontested Calendar. Placed on Intent Calendar 5-6-19; **Died**

Each of these bills were discussed at length during the March 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting and positions on the bills were determined. Further discussions occurred at each subsequent board meeting to evaluate the position taken March 14<sup>th</sup>. **\*\*\*New bills affecting administration of the District.**