

BUSINESS | ENTREPRENEURS

Judge rejects Kyle Bass' efforts to reverse judgment in water rights case

The ruling may restrict, or even block, the billionaire investor from drilling for water on his own properties.

By **Mark Curriden**
The Texas Lawbook

Nov. 19, 2025 | Updated 4:55 p.m. CST | ⌚ 2 min. read





A recent court ruling prevents Dallas businessman Kyle Bass from drilling for millions of gallons of water on two of his East Texas ranches.

BLOOMBERG



An Anderson County district judge ruled late Monday that she will not reconsider a court-approved settlement in a case pitting a group of poultry and cattle farmers against the Neches & Trinity Valleys Groundwater Conservation District that could restrict or even prohibit Dallas businessman Kyle Bass from drilling for millions of gallons of water on two of his East Texas ranches.

In a two-page order, Senior District Judge Deborah Oakes Evans rejected legal efforts by Bass to set aside a final judgment in a case in which Sanderson Farms and five East Texas poultry and cattle farmers had sued Neches & Trinity Valley's Groundwater Conservation District to prevent the kind of drilling for water that Bass seeks to do.



Related



‘Rogue, unlawful’: Kyle Bass files dual lawsuits to force East Texas water drilling vote

The ruling is a setback for Bass, who sought to intervene in the litigation. The Sanderson Farms plaintiffs reached a settlement with the water district, and then Anderson County District Judge C. Michael Davis approved the agreement in a final judgment order he signed Oct. 24.

Evans was assigned the case when Davis was promoted to the Tyler Court of Appeals. Lawyers for Bass filed their motion to intervene and a motion to set aside the final judgment Oct. 31.

Business Briefing

Become a business insider with the latest news.

SIGN UP

Or with: **GOOGLE**

By signing up, you agree to our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

Jeff Tillotson, a Dallas lawyer representing Bass, said Tuesday that he will appeal the decision to the Tyler Court of Appeals.

“Sometimes you win in regulation, and sometimes you have to win in overtime,” Tillotson said.

ADVERTISEMENT



Two Bass-owned real estate entities — Pine Bliss, a 4,300-acre property that serves as the Bass family ranch in Henderson County, and Redtown Ranch Holdings, a 7,200-acre ranch in Anderson County — claimed in their motion to intervene that the water district’s agreement with the Sanderson Farms plaintiffs violate Bass’ constitutional rights to access and use the water on his property.

The Bass entities also filed a separate lawsuit Oct. 31 against the water district in neighboring Cherokee County seeking to force the agency to rule on their request to conduct exploratory water drilling.

In two interesting twists, Evans has also been assigned to handle the Bass entities lawsuit in Cherokee County, while Davis, who issued the final judgment order in October in the Sanderson Farms case, is sitting on the state appeals court that will eventually hear both matters.

The Texas Lawbook is an online news publication focused on business law in Texas. For a longer version of this story, visit texaslawbook.net.



By **Mark Curriden**

Mark Curriden is a lawyer/journalist and founder of The Texas Lawbook. In addition, he is a contributing legal correspondent for The Houston Chronicle and a former journalist for the Dallas Morning News, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and other publications.

MORE ABOUT: [Future of North Texas-energy-environment](#) [Water](#)

Commenting Experience Feedback

Encounter an issue with commenting? Take 2 minutes to [provide feedback](#) to help us improve your experience.

Join the conversation

Thank you for reading. We welcome your thoughts on this topic. Comments are moderated for adherence to our

