



CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

PHYSICAL: 511 Mercer Street • MAILING: PO Box 384 • Dripping Springs, TX 78620
512.858.4725 • www.cityofdrippingsprings.com

Gateway to the Hill Country

August 14, 2020

The Honorable Tom Craddick
Chairman, House Committee on Land and Resource Management
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910

Via E-Mail: Tom.Craddick@House.Texas.Gov

Re: City of Dripping Springs Comments on Annexation Interim Charge No. 1: Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including HB 347, which eliminates the distinction between Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties and municipalities so that all cities are prohibited from using forced annexation. Determine if there is a need for further annexation legislation in Texas. Study how implementation of voter-approved annexation impacts the need for extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Dear Chairman Craddick,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide comments to the House Committee on Land and Resource Management. The City of Dripping Springs is a general law city who has annexed solely upon the application of property owners and voters. Also, we have had many individuals request to be in our extraterritorial jurisdiction. We have worked with these property owners to ensure that they receive the city services they want through the annexation and request for inclusion in the extraterritorial jurisdiction process.

Why Our City Values Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

The City of Dripping Springs believes that Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) is an important tool for ensuring safe and quality development and infrastructure. Our regulation in the ETJ is limited, but important.

Water Code 26.177 – Pollution Control and abatement programs:

The City takes its duty to protect the waterways at and near Dripping Springs very seriously, including the Edwards Aquifer, because the residents of our City and ETJ have made it clear that this issue is of primary importance to them. The ability to regulate water quality in the ETJ is essential to protecting local ecological systems, preserving land values and the natural beauty and aesthetics of the community, and providing



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reasonable standards for development design to prevent erosion, drainage issues, and pollutants spreading across property lines and through waterways. Drainage and pollution issues that flow through multiple lots lower property values and would hinder developers' access to quality water and land. For example, our recent wastewater permit application received over 1000 comments, many from our ETJ residents and other Hays County residents. The City of Dripping Springs respects the needs of our ETJ residents and showed this by improving our wastewater permit in response to their input.

Local Government Code 212.003(a) – Subdivision Regulations:

Our platting and site plan requirements in the ETJ are designed to provide an efficient process for the City to ensure that adequate infrastructure is provided for the residents of the ETJ who could, upon request, become residents of our City. Subdivision regulation in the ETJ also allows the City to plan for future wastewater and water infrastructure, while also ensuring that roads that could someday become City streets are being built in a safe manner. As part of our program, we require that at least two of our seats on our Planning and Zoning Commission be residents of the ETJ and allow up to five seats on the Commission to be chosen from residents of the ETJ to give them representation in matters in our City Limits and the ETJ.

Local Government Code 216.003 – Sign Regulation:

The City of Dripping Springs, Gateway to the Hill Country, is a special place with a commitment to consistent regulation of sign regulation, including billboards, within the City Limits and ETJ. We regulate signs the same in both places in order to maintain the character that draws both residents and visitors to our City.

Thank you for your attention. We ask that the Legislature maintains extraterritorial jurisdiction to ensure quality development throughout the state driven by the residents of both the city limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Bill Foulds, Jr.
Mayor
City of Dripping Springs