

**Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation Rejects
Wholesale Water Contract from Electro Purification, but Invites Revised Version**

The Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation (DSWSC) called a special meeting on October 12, 2020, to consider a wholesale water contract with Electro Purification, LLC (EP). Prior to taking up the agenda item, Hays County Commissioners Lon Shell and Walt Smith, past Hays County Commissioner Will Conley, and Adam Friedman, attorney for Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association (TESPA), offered public comments to the DSWSC Board opposing DSWSC entering into the contract

The comments apprised the DSWSC that available science demonstrates EP's groundwater project poses a significant threat to the existing water supply for many Hays County residents. Hays County Commissioners offered to work with DSWSC to help satisfy any water demands with an alternate supply.

TESPA Executive Director Patrick Cox, Ph.D. submitted the organization's position that EP's well field and large-volume pumping permit request will result in a major decline of the Trinity Aquifer.

"EP's proposed well field is located in an area where hundreds of domestic wells provide the sole source of water supply to homes and businesses in the area," said Dr. Cox. "EP's well field and proposed pumping permit will result in a massive withdrawal of groundwater that not only threatens to dry up dozens of nearby water wells, but also jeopardizes the groundwater flowing into Jacob's Well which is critical for its survival."

The DSWSC did not vote or take formal action, but overwhelmingly rejected the proposed terms of EP's wholesale water contract, which were not made public. However, the DSWSC invited EP to submit a revised contract for possible consideration at its January 2021 meeting. TESPAs and Hays County leaders expressed a firm conviction to continue monitoring this issue and keep citizens informed.

"I appreciated the opportunity to address the Board of Directors of the DSWSC today during their specially called meeting regarding the potential contract with EP," Commissioner Shell commented following the meeting. "Many citizens of Hays County, including those represented by TESPAs, have worked tirelessly for more than five years on this issue," he continued. "I believe their efforts were recognized today as we made our case for why this project is not in the best interest of Hays County. There is still work to be done. However, I'm pleased we have the ability to continue working together toward solutions that do not further threaten our groundwater supplies."

TESPA expresses its sincere thanks to Commissioner Shell, Commissioner Smith, past Commissioner Conley, and to all those remaining vigilant to protect our precious resources.

TESPA is a non-profit organization with a mission to protect the Trinity and Edwards aquifers from over pumping, the springs that flow from this interconnected system, and the property rights of landowners who depend on and wish to conserve this precious natural resource. TESPAtexas.org

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Attached Photos: Concerned citizens protesting the EP wholesale water contract with DSWSC.

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