

# Hays County Commissioner

Precinct 3



**Lon A. Shell**

200 Stillwater, Suite 103 ▪ P.O. Box 2085 ▪ Wimberley, Texas 78676

October 9, 2020

Kyle Dannhaus  
Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation  
101 Hays Street  
Suite 416  
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

Dear Mr. Dannhaus,

I recently noticed the Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation (DSWSC) has posted an Agenda for a special meeting on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. One of the items for consideration involves a wholesale water contract with EP (Electro Purification, LLC). As you know we have met previously on this issue. I will attach the letter I sent you on this issue in September of 2019 with this correspondence.

The County, our Groundwater Conservations Districts, and many citizens have spent years working on ways to protect and conserve our groundwater. We have worked in our communities, in the Legislature, and in the courts. As you know, the permit for EP's groundwater production has been challenged by Hays County and others. This matter will be back before the State office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) soon. We do not yet fully understand the impacts the proceedings at SOAH will have on the permit.

I understand you and your Board of Directors have a responsibility to provide water to your customers, and I understand the Dripping Springs area is challenged with tremendous growth, however I will reiterate, I believe supporting growth from an unsustainable source is not in the best interest of your customers or the citizens of Hays County.

I have offered, and will continue to offer, to work with you and your Board to help provide sustainable water resources for your customers. Please understand how important this groundwater is to other citizens of Hays County and to our rivers and streams. I am convinced that if we work together, we can find solutions that will not negatively impact this great place that we call home. Please give us time to discuss these matters with you before you take action that will potentially have significant negative impacts on Hays County residents and pending litigation involving Hays County.

Regards,



Lon A. Shell  
Hays County Commissioner, Precinct 3

cc: DSWSC Board of Directors

See attached letter from Sept. 10, 2019

# Hays County Commissioner

Precinct 3



**Lon A. Shell**

200 Stillwater, Suite 103 ▪ P.O. Box 2085 ▪ Wimberley, Texas 78676

September 10, 2019

Kyle Dannhaus  
Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation  
101 Hays Street  
Suite 416  
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

Dear Mr. Dannhaus,

Thank you for the opportunity to visit with you a few weeks ago about the water supply challenges Dripping Springs faces. As we all know, Hays County is experiencing incredible growth, which brings both blessings and challenges. I am honored to represent the citizens of Hays County as the entire community navigates the challenges that growth brings. It is important to me, as well as the other Commissioners, that Hays County continues to grow in a smart, responsible manner. The availability of water is a requirement for growth, and in my opinion, it would be imprudent for the County to allow growth to occur based on an unsustainable source of water that is being developed without community support. This is why Hays County is protesting the Electro Purification groundwater project – we believe the science clearly shows that there is not enough groundwater in western Hays County to support the 2.5 million gallon a day permit that EP is requesting without dewatering the aquifer and drying up nearby wells. Many of those wells provide water to the homes of long-time Hays County residents, the people I represent.

To that end, I, along with my fellow Commissioners, are committed to working with you and other regional partners to locate a sustainable source of water that will meet your water supply needs in the long-term, in addition to collaborating with you and water users in Dripping Springs on ways to reduce water demands. As a community, we can work together and proactively plan to ensure that Hays County's water supply needs will be met into the future without negatively impacting our local groundwater resources. I will be in touch in the coming weeks to continue these discussions. Thank you again for taking the time to meet with me.

Respectfully,



Lon A. Shell  
Hays County Pct. 3 Commissioner

cc: Walt Smith, Hays County Pct. 4 Commissioner  
Phil Haag, DSWSC Attorney