

# Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District  
Date: November 15, 2004  
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### WATER MARKETERS LOOKING AT FAYETTE COUNTY

La Grange, Texas—

Feasibility studies are currently being conducted by outside engineering and consulting firms, looking into exporting groundwater from several counties, including Fayette County, to be transported to cities in the San Marcos area via pipelines.

The project proposes to transport as much as 10,000 acre feet of groundwater per year from Fayette County. (One acre foot, the volume of water necessary to cover one acre to a depth of one foot, is equal to 325,851 gallons.) Most groundwater districts allow a maximum production of 2 acre feet per year per contiguous acre. That would most likely require the buying or leasing of water rights from about 5,000 acres in far western Fayette County. Water marketers are expecting to pay well under \$100 per acre foot of water rights.

According to Paul Kohlleppel, president of the Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District, "A groundwater district cannot prohibit the exporting of groundwater. If you want to sell or lease your water, that's your right. But we can set limits on how much water can be exported out of the county."

Kohlleppel pointed out that urban areas all over the state are looking for more water. He said, "This is why our well inventory is so critical. In order to set limits on how much water can be taken out of the county without having a negative impact on our future, we must first understand how much water our people currently need, and will need in the future with the projected growth. Our duty is to ensure that Fayette County has the water it needs, before we consider selling water outside the county."

Property owners are advised to consult with an attorney before selling or leasing their water rights. The value of a property without water rights could be diminished, because potential uses of that property could be limited.

"If you are approached by someone wanting to buy or lease your water rights, the groundwater district would appreciate it if you would let us know," Kohlleppel said.

For more information, contact the Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District at (979) 968-3135.

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**SOURCE: FAYETTE COUNTY GCD**