

## Groundwater District- Kendall county

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Kendall County commissioners have proposed a county-wide water district to "develop and implement regulatory, conservation and recharge programs that preserve and protect the underground water resources located within the district."

Commissioners will have to pass a resolution asking the Texas Legislature to pass a bill that would let citizens vote on the creation of the Kendall County Groundwater Conservation District. Funding would come from well registration and permit fees and a tax of up to 3 cents per \$100 of county property value.

Kendall, and seven other counties are located in what is called the "Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management Area," one of several regions identified by the state as critical areas where water supply problems can be expected to occur by 2015.

The state is encouraging these areas to form water districts. Bandera, Kerr and Gillespie counties created districts in 1991. However, the remaining counties of Kendall, Comal, Hays, Blanco and Travis are faced with a Sept. 1, 2000 deadline to submit water development projects to Senate Bill 1 Regional Planning Groups that must create a statewide water plan by 2001.

Comal County commissioners passed a resolution in December 1998 similar to the one being considered by Kendall County, which would maintain local control and responsibility for water resources, including quantity and quality. Otherwise, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) can recommend to the legislature how to manage the area, including annexing counties into an existing water district.