

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Cecelia Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016 8:30:19 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 8:14 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: PALO DURO RIVER AUTHORITY TEXAS

First Name: Scott

Last Name: Higginbotham

Title: Moore County Attorney

Organization you are affiliated with: Moore County

Email:

City: Dumas

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

I support the Staff Report Recommendation regarding the re-organization and re-naming of the Palo Duro River Authority (PDRA) as a Water District.

I agree with allowing the member-entities to re-organize the PDRA internally, however it is imperative that the composition of the Board of Directors of the PDRA also be restructured in order to provide Board representation commensurate with tax base or financial contribution. See the way Appraisal District Boards are structured based on tax valuations at Tex. Tax Code Section 6.03(d)

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I have requested distribution to the Commission the 2008-2018 Groundwater Management Plan prepared by the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District (NPGWCD). Hansford County, the PDRA, and Moore County are covered within the NPGWCD.

Up to this point there has been no mention or discussion about the hydrology of the Ogallala Aquifer, and I think some facts need to be mentioned in order for the Commission to fully comprehend why the PDRA (re-organized, of course) is so critical for the citizens and cities of Moore County:

- 1) Page 10 of the NPCWCD Report shows that in 2020 Hansford County is projected to have access to 19MM acre/feet of groundwater, and Moore County will only have access to approximately 5MM acre/feet. According to the 2010 census Hansford County has a population of 5,613, and Moore County 21,904.
- 2) The Palo Duro Reservoir is only 3% full currently. One of the reasons that it does not remain full is because the surface water impounded at the Reservoir 'seeps' or percolates back into the Ogallala, thus recharging the Aquifer under and around the Reservoir itself, which is exclusively in Hansford County. In other words, the Palo Duro Reservoir is a giant re-charge facility for the Ogallala Aquifer in that location.
- 3) With that recharging concept explained, then you must also understand that Moore County sits 'upstream' in the Aquifer from Hansford County so that any and all waters recharging the aquifers in Hansford County, or the Palo

Duro Reservoir will NEVER naturally run to, or benefit Moore County.

4) Therefore, on page 11 of the NPGWCD Report Hansford County has 2.5k ac./ft. of annual groundwater supply from the Aquifer, where Moore County only has 76k ac./ft. annually.

5) On Page 16 of the NPGWCD Report you will see the 'estimated water supply needs' chart shows through 2060 Hansford County's needs are projected to be met, where Moore County is projected to NEED almost 100k ac./ft./yr. in order to meet our needs. While Hansford County benefits exclusively from the recharge benefits of the Palo Duro Reservoir to meet their needs, Moore County continues to pay to maintain a facility 'downstream' in the Aquifer.

6) And finally, you will see that in the graph on Page 17, the NPGWCD lists 7 'water management strategies' for Moore County to meet our future water needs, one of which is listed as the Palo Duro Reservoir. We would LOVE to be able to use ANY water from the Palo Duro Reservoir, but up to this time we have been prohibited from doing so by enabling legislation of the PDRA, gravity, aquifer dynamics, and under-representation on the PDRA Board of Directors.

For these reasons, it is critical for Moore County to realize some benefit(s) from our investment(s). While Moore County's Aquifer supplies continue to dwindle, we have provided and funded for Hansford County to have at their disposal and use a giant recharging system to endure their groundwater future.

Therefore, in addition to increased representation on the PDRA Board of Directors, Moore County would also suggest that the PDRA be allowed to access to the groundwater underlying the PDRA property.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree