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## **Travis Co. Commissioners Court to Vote on Controversial Set of Groundwater Rules next Tues.**

***Will Affect Builders, Developers including Limiting Impervious Cover***

January 27, 2012

After a lengthy public hearing, the Travis County Commissioners Court decided it would take a vote on the [latest round of proposed changes to the county's groundwater availability rules](#). The hearing caps several months of stakeholder meetings in which the HBA was represented by Past President Hank Smith. The changes would drastically affect residential and commercial development.

The HBA had a number of members that opposed proposed limits on impervious cover, regulating water use density when surface water is used and attempts to skirt statutes that limit county authority for most of the proposed changes.

The court believes it has the legal right to enact state changes. Back in October, the Texas Association of Builders sent a [Letter to Travis County](#) questioning the legality of the proposed amendments. The HBA also sent a [letter](#) outlining concerns. In addition, the Texas House Committee Chair on Natural Resources also asked [the Texas Attorney General for an opinion on the rules changes](#).

State Representative Paul Workman asked the Court to hold off on the rules changes since he is sponsoring a bill next legislative session to create a groundwater conservation district.