



## Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District

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**Gary Westbrook, General Manager**

The Honorable Steve Young  
Milam County Judge  
102 S. Fannin, Suite 1  
Cameron, TX 76520

July 16, 2020

Sent via email to [syoung@milamcounty.net](mailto:syoung@milamcounty.net) and via U.S. Mail

Dear Judge Young,

As you are no doubt aware, one of the citizens in our District, Mr. Fred Russell of Milam County, has continued for several years to be critical of District Directors and Staff, and has copied both you and your counterpart, Burleson County Judge Keith Schroeder on many of his writings. Although our Directors are respectful, and even protective, of everyone's right to free speech, as well as everyone's right to freely choose how they perceive and address actions taken by this District, there is a growing concern over Mr. Russell's escalating tone in accusations and tactics. Please know that contrary to Mr. Russell's most recent accusations (several of which are attached and included with this request), District Staff and District Board officers have met with him on several occasions to not only address his concerns, but also encourage his involvement in the public process of adoption of Rules and management strategies of the District, as well as including opportunities for Mr. Russell to meet with District consultants to assist in his understanding of issues faced by the District. Each meeting has been followed with a personal attack levied by Mr. Russell against the individuals who attempted to assist him in those meetings. Mr. Russell was also invited to participate in meetings of committees designed to address his and other concerns of District citizens, but he did not avail himself of those opportunities. Milam County Judge David Barkemeyer even wrote to Mr. Russell to express concerns over Mr. Russell's writings and warn him of continued efforts like this.

Therefore, we seek your assistance. Even though the District is audited each and every year for finances and ethics by competent and licensed professionals and those results posted for public review; and even though Mr. Russell filed a petition with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to review the District's management strategies and Rules as such opportunity is provided to citizens of a groundwater conservation district with that petition being dismissed by TCEQ; and even though the District received a perfect review in an audit by the Texas State Auditor's office during 2018; and even though Board President Youngblood and Vice-President Wise communicated through a letter encouraging proper etiquette in communication to the Board during June of 2017, as well as President Youngblood's most recent letter dated May 8, 2020 requesting Mr. Russell clarify his accusations so the Board could properly respond, Mr. Russell continues to accuse Staff and Directors of wrong doings. Mr. Russell has levied so many accusations it is not practical to

list them here, however, after discussions at our most recent Board Meeting of July 16, 2020, the Directors have instructed me to request your comment and/or a list of any concerns, should any concerns exist, which you and/or the Milam Commissioner's Court might have on any of the accusations levied against any member of the District's Directors or Staff. Please know that any member of the District's staff or Board of Directors is able and willing to provide any information you might find helpful to consider in considering a response to this request. Should you wish to respond, please do so within the next 14 days so our Board may promptly address any concerns you might desire to address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Westbrook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Gary Westbrook  
General Manager  
Post Oak Savannah GCD  
Cc: District files, District Board of Directors