**For Immediate Release-October 4, 2018**

**the city of goldthwaite has approved the funding for the previously approved purchase of 1000 acre feet of water rights**

**Goldthwaite, Texas.** The acquisition of water rights will not result in a tax increase (the City of Goldthwaite does not levy a property tax) nor will it increase utility rates. Increasing the City’s inventory of available water provides city residents assurance of a long-term supply with less of a threat of unavailability.

The City of Goldthwaite currently owns Certificate of Adjudication No. 14-2553, which was amended in 1984 in Certificate No. 14-2553A. The permit authorizes a total diversion of 1,500 acre-feet per year. 800 acre-feet of water per annum may be diverted for municipal purposes and 700 acre feet may be diverted for industrial purposes. The permit authorizes a total of three (3) off-channel reservoirs and to impound therein water diverted from the Colorado River. In addition, the Certificate of Adjudication authorizes the City to use 250 acre feet per annum of treated sewage effluent created by the owner’s use of water authorized by the permit. It can only be used for the purpose of irrigating 86 acres of land approximately one (1) mile southwest of the City. The maximum diversion rate authorized by the permit is 1,400 gallons per minute.

The statement issued by critics of the acquisition contains a number of inaccurate claims. First, the total diversion rate is 1,400 gallons per minute, not 1,400 gallons per minute for each designated use. The 250-acre feet referenced by critics is not an authorized diversion from the river, but rather is permission to reuse treated wastewater effluent for irrigation of cropland. This authorization allows the City of Goldthwaite to dispose of treated wastewater effluent without the discharge of effluent into the Colorado River.

Contrary to critics’ claims, there is an active market for surface water right permits and authorization. The City engaged a water rights attorney who has negotiated numerous surface water right conveyances in what will likely be a growing market for water transactions.

Critics are apparently suggesting that Goldthwaite’s reused, treated wastewater be used for potable supply, a permitting process that, while available, is highly regulated. Treatment would be expensive and require a substantial investment in necessary facilities.

The acquisition of additional water rights for the City of Goldthwaite ensures an adequate long-term future supply, improves the City’s water supply reliability and is a valuable asset in securing future supplies at a time when developing additional supplies is expensive, uncertain and extremely time consuming. A transaction involving a transferrable water right that can be used with existing facilities eliminates many of these impediments.

Questions regarding this press release may be directed to Goldthwaite City Hall at 325-648-3186.

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