

# Fort Bend Herald

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ROSENBERG-RICHMOND, TEXAS

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## Post office retreats on cutting Saturday mail

### County keeps eye on wells

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Proposed water wells in the Electro Purification well field in Austin and Waller counties could cause subsidence in Fort Bend County. Applications filed would construct three wells at the border of Austin County and another seven in Waller County near Brookshire.

In a memo to Board Members of the Fort Bend Subsidence District (FBSD), General Manager Ronald Neighbors stated these wells could cause problems for West Fort Bend County.

"The mission of the Fort Bend Subsidence District is to stop and prevent subsidence," Neighbors states. "This mission is not carried out by allowing pumpage, which contributes to draw-downs and subsidence within the FBSD. This proposed pumpage will cause subsidence in areas of the FBSD that are already within or close to the flood plain."

"It's how much the ground is going to sink and where it's going to be sinking," Permit Hearing Director Robert Thompson said. "Most of this is going to be right along the Brazos River, which is already having issues of flooding. So, four or five feet of additional subsidence is certainly going to make things a lot worse."

The District's purpose is to provide for the regulation of the withdrawal of groundwater within the District to prevent subsidence that contributes to flooding, inundation or overflow of areas within the District. They generally permit and regulate water wells because water that is taken out of the ground

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causes it to sink.

Currently, Richmond and Rosenberg together use around 10 million gallons of water per day. The average house uses approximately 100,000 gallons per year.

"From what I understand, (Richmond and Rosenberg) have a contract with the Brazos River Authority for water being delivered to them and they are supposed to start construction of a surface water treatment plant by October of next year," Thompson said. Electro Purification have filed applications in the Bluebonnet District to be able to get those wells put in and pump up to 20 million gallons a day."

By 2016, Richmond and Rosenberg are supposed to reduce total demand, so roughly 3 million gallons per day would be required to come from a source other than their wells. What has been proposed is receiving water from Austin and Waller counties, which would not change whether or not there is subsidence, according to Thompson.

Go Fort Bend!