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Mason County Joins Brady To Fight Angelo Over Water

San Angelo Mayor Vows: 'We Own McCulloch Wells'

The Mason County Commissioners, in a meeting Tuesday, asked Brady Mayor H. L. Gober to head a committee to contact adjoining counties who are included in the Hickory Underground Water District and who are involved in the disagreement with the City of San Angelo and their proposed drilling of more wells in the Hickory Aquifer.

The Mason commissioners passed a resolution that they would join McCulloch County in a protest over San Angelo's plans to pump heavily from the Hickory Aquifer.

The resolution stated that the Mason Commissioners Court is

unalterably opposed to the City of San Angelo's proposed removal of any amount of water from its wells in the Hickory Aquifer. Furthermore, we solidly support the City of Brady and what other entities may become involved, in pursuing a legal resolve to this situation."

Mayor Gober and T. Flemming, utilities director for the city of Brady, attended the meeting Tuesday.

Tuesday night KLST, a San Angelo television station, presented a story on the Hickory Aquifer and in it they quoted the San Angelo mayor, Dick Funk, as saying, "We own the water and we plan to use the re-

sources for our town."

Stan Reinhard, manager of the Hickory Underground Water District, said Wednesday that an open meeting on March 14 would be for a decision by the directors of the Underground Water District. "They will vote then," he said.

Terry Norman, attorney for the Water District, said that there might be a day or two after the meeting before the decision was announced, but that everyone was studying the transcript of the two-day meeting in mid-February.

Norman also explained that the Hickory Water District's attorney in

Austin was working on the problem and that the meeting March 14 would be open to the public. He explained that the Water District would have 10 days after the March 14 meeting to announce the decision in writing.

San Angelo now has nine wells drilled and wants to drill a total of 22.

The Edwards Aquifer in South Texas is now having problems with the low water levels and has asked San Antonio residents to curb watering.

"That same thing could happen to us if too much water was pumped from the Hickory Aquifer," Reinhard said.