

San Angelo Council Okays Water Fight

The San Angelo City Council unanimously authorized City Attorney Tom C. Massey and City Manager Tom Adams to take whatever action is necessary to protect the city's right to draw water from city-owned wells in the Hickory Underground aquifer, according to a council report in the San Angelo Standard Times Wednesday.

The decision to make the fight for the water came in a 15-minute closed-door session.

They claim San Angelo drilled nine wells over the aquifer 20 years ago and that they would like to drill a total of 22 wells in all for future use of San Angelo—some 20 years into the future.

The Brady City Council, in ses-

sion Tuesday night, authorized Mayor H. L. Gober to participate in a Ad Hoc Committee opposing the City of San Angelo's removal of water from the Hickory aquifer.

The committee is made up of adjoining counties and cities who depend on the aquifer for water, both for their cities as well as for farming and farm upkeep. They have agreed to help with the cost of a lawsuit.

Brady filed an immediate appeal after the Hickory Underground Water Conservation District approved the wells, but reduced the amount of water to be allowed San Angelo from 15,000 acre feet per year to 2,750

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acre feet per year.

The City of Brady immediately filed a suit in 198th District Court asking for the Hickory Board's decision to be overturned.

Brady's legal action, along with the Hickory District's decision to reduce the water amount, forces San Angelo to reapply for a permit because "it effectively denies the City of San Angelo access to its own water," according to San Angelo City Manager Adams.

He noted that the city would take the steps necessary to protect "what we consider our emergency water supply."

San Angelo Mayor Dick Funk said that San Angelo can't afford to wait another 20 years to acquire a permit to pump water from the aquifer.