



For Immediate Release

Contact: David Marino, Public Information Officer  
512-312-0084 (Office) 520-576-4975 (Cell)

## Water Sharing Agreement Finalized Between Buda, Kyle, and San Marcos

**BUDA, Texas** - Water is a hot commodity in Central Texas. With the population boom in Hays County, the City of Buda is committed to securing additional water resources. But there is strength in numbers.

After years of hard work, a historic water sharing agreement has been finalized between Buda, Kyle, and San Marcos. It was accomplished through the Hays Caldwell Public Utility Agency (HCPUA). HCPUA is a partnership between Buda, Kyle, San Marcos and the Canyon Regional Water Authority (CRWA) to develop additional groundwater supplies from the Carrizo Aquifer in Caldwell County.

"Securing long term water supplies to meet explosive population growth often leads to contention between neighboring communities," said Buda Water Specialist Brian Lillibridge. "For this reason, the Interim Water Sharing Agreement is a huge success story and exemplifies what can happen when communities work together to solve a common problem."

As part of the water sharing agreement, Buda will receive an additional 1 million gallons per day of surface water from the HCPUA.

Below are highlights of the agreement:

- Buda will receive an additional 1 million gallons per day of surface water from HCPUA
- Kyle and San Marcos are both sharing 500,000 gallons per day each (1 million gallons per day total) of their surface water purchased from Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA)
- The agreement is effective from 2017 to 2023.
- This additional supply will assist Buda in meeting short term water needs until Phase 1 the HCPUA project is complete and on-line in 2023

This is all part of a long-term plan to bring additional groundwater supplies to HCPUA members via a pipeline from the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer southeast of Luling. But with the water sharing agreement now finalized, it delays the need for the more expensive pipeline project, saving money for Buda citizens and all HCPUA members.

"The HCPUA Project to bring interim water to Buda exemplifies all that the agency is about," said Buda City Manager Kenneth Williams. "Cost savings are achieved by the cities of San Marcos and Kyle by avoiding cost for reservation of water they will not need until the future. All partners including Canyon Regional Water Authority, City of Buda, City of Kyle and the City of San Marcos will gain savings by deferring the cost of building the infrastructure until several more years."

HCPUA Executive Director Graham Moore says the agreement is the culmination of 4 years of work by the Agency and all 4 of its sponsors.

"The agreement is an important cog in the Agency's overall water supply plan," said Moore. "Not only does it provide water for Buda prior to the Agency's Carrizo project that will be online in the year 2023, but it also allows for the deferment of approximately \$13 million of annual debt service, which benefits all of the Sponsors."





Meanwhile, Buda continues to explore other water supply options, including Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). ASR is the practice of storing water in a suitable aquifer and retrieving it for later use. The technology can be used to meet peak water demands during high use summer months, or for long term storage to provide a reserve supply during extended drought periods. A feasibility study is underway and is anticipated to be complete within six months.

The City is also investigating Direct Potable Reuse (DPR). DPR is the practice of taking high quality treated effluent and processing it into potable water using advanced water treatment technology. City Council commissioned an initial DPR feasibility study which was completed in 2015. Based on the promising results of the feasibility study, City Council approved funding for a one year effluent characterization study. The results are expected in the coming weeks. Data provided by the study will be used by City Leaders to determine if DPR is a viable water supply option for Buda.

As the area continues to grow, City Manager Kenneth Williams says Buda will continue taking a proactive approach in addressing future water needs.

“The City of Buda has worked diligently in finding solutions to a plentiful water source,” said Williams. “Our goal is to be a good neighbor and collaborate to find adequate water sources while being environmentally friendly in increasing efforts toward conservation.”

For more information on the HCPUA you can visit their website at <http://hcpua.org/>.



**July 27, 2016**

**Hays Caldwell Public Utility Agency Board Toasts Passage of Water Sharing Plan**

**PHOTO: Courtesy of Gap Strategies**

