

RESOLUTION NO. 99-2

of the

ARKANSAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION EFFORTS PURSUANT TO THE ARKANSAS WATER PLAN AND ARKANSAS GROUND WATER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT ACT.

WHEREAS, the goal of the Arkansas Water Plan is to promote the wise use of the State's water resource without restricting water use.

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Ground Water Protection and Management Act vested in the Commission the responsibility to determine areas where there is, or trends indicate there may develop, significant ground water depletion and/or degradation.

WHEREAS, the Commission made Critical Ground Water Area designations in 1996 and 1998 without implementation of regulation or restriction of ground water use.

WHEREAS, the purpose of the designations is to encourage voluntary conservation and reduction of ground water use through education and incentives.

WHEREAS, there have been favorable voluntary efforts toward reduction of ground water use in both Areas. In cities such as Magnolia and El Dorado, a shift is being made from ground to surface water supplies for municipal water systems. Conservation Districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers are working with the Commission to reduce agricultural reliance on ground water through such mechanisms as surface water irrigation districts. Numerous farmers are taking advantage of the tax credits provide under the Commission's Water Resource Conservation and Development Incentives Program.

WHEREAS, the Ground Water Protection and Management Act does not provide for regulation or restriction of ground water use unless biennial staff reviews of efforts within a designated area do not indicate satisfactory progress.

WHEREAS, proposals have been made to strengthen the types of restrictions available under the Act, yet there have been no indications that satisfactory progress is not being made, nor has there been sufficient time to make such determinations.

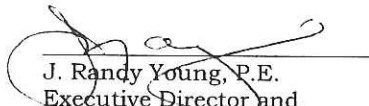
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN UNANIMOUS ACCORD BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION, assembled in Little Rock on February 18, 1999, that the Commission opposes any efforts at this time to enhance the regulatory powers available to it under the Ground Water Protection and Management Act, and that the Commission's Executive Director/Ex-Officio Secretary be directed to carry out the Commission's intent.

Adopted this 18th day of February, 1999.

**ARKANSAS SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**


Ann Cash, Chairperson

ATTEST:


J. Randy Young, P.E.
Executive Director and
Ex-Officio Secretary