



For Immediate Release
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WEST TRAVIS COUNTY SYSTEM TO REMAIN PUBLIC

After a year of bidding against national and multinational private corporations and negotiations with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), a coalition of central Texas communities will keep their water and wastewater systems public.

The Coalition of Central Texas Utilities Development Corporation (UDC), made up of counties, cities, water districts, non-profit water supply corporations and neighborhoods, successfully negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with the LCRA in December 2011 for the purchase of the West Travis County System which provides service to residents and businesses in western Travis and Northern Hays Counties.

As a consequence, Hays County, the City of Bee Cave and West Travis County Municipal Utility District No. 5 completed the formation of the West Travis County Public Utility Agency (WTCPUA) which will acquire the West Travis County System and operate the System on a non-profit basis.

The WTCPUA and LCRA executed the final agreement selling the System to the WTCPUA on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

“If not for the assistance of Senator Kirk Watson and the diligence and tenacity of the UDC participants, many of whom are not even served by the West Travis County System, this System would have been purchased by an investor-owned utility which would have had a monopoly on the service to over 15,000 customers,” stated Pix Howell, President of the UDC. “The sale of the System to the WTCPUA represents a huge victory for local control and cooperation among local public officials and neighborhood representatives. It shows what can be achieved by folks working together and not giving up.”

“I'm proud to have been involved in getting this unique agreement completed. I'm a big believer in public ownership of water utilities. This deal is a victory for accountability and

affordability for customers and businesses served by these systems. They are so vital to our quality of life and to the central Texas economy,” said Texas Senator Kirk Watson.

The UDC and the WTCPUA wish to thank the LCRA Board of Directors and staff for their efforts, patience and cooperation. The UDC and WTCPUA also thank Senator Watson, who offered valuable insight and understanding regarding the potential impacts on customers had the System come under the control of an investor-owned utility, and provided encouragement and support to the UDC as it was competing for acquisition of the System.