

Control Number: 48472



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DOCKET NO. 48472

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PETITION TO REVOKE LANCEWOOD WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION'S CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER TEXAS WATER CODE § 13.254 AND 16 TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE § 24.113 PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION: 1:18

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OF TEXAS

COMMISSION STAFF'S RESPONSE TO ORDER NO. 1 AND MOTION FOR ENTRY OF A DEFAULT ORDER

Order No. 1, issued on June 28, 2018, ordered Commission Staff to file a proposed default order no later than August 17, 2018. Pursuant to that Order, Commission Staff's Proposed Default Order is attached.

Commission Staff has also attached the affidavit of Tasha Lopez, a legal assistant with the Commission's Oversight and Enforcement Division. Ms. Lopez's affidavit states that she mailed Commission Staff's petition to the addresses listed in the petition and shows that notice was given to Lancewood Water Supply Corporation pursuant to Commission Rules and the APA.

As such, Commission Staff requests that the Commission approve the entry of the attached default order.

Respectfully Submitted,

Taylor Kilroy

Attorney, Oversight and Enforcement Division State Bar No. 24087844 (512) 936-7127 T (512) 936-7208 F Public Utility Commission of Texas 1701 N. Congress Avenue P.O. Box 13326 Austin, Texas 78711-3326

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on August 17, 2018, pursuant to 16 TAC § 22.183(b)(2), a copy of this document was sent certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of Lancewood Water Supply Corporation (Lancewood) in the Commission's records and to the address for the registered agent for process on file with the Secretary of State:

Lancewood's Last Known Address in Commission Records:

Lancewood Water Supply, Inc. P.O. Box 3001 Hudson, Texas 75901

Address for the registered agent for process on file with the Secretary of State: T. M. Whichard Jr. 1308 Western Dr. Lufkin, Texas 75904

Taylor Kilroy

<u>Attachment One</u> <u>Proposed Default Order</u>

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DOCKET NO. 48472

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PETITION TO REVOKE LANCEWOOD WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION'S CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER TEXAS WATER CODE § 13.254 AND 16 TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE § 24.113

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF TEXAS

PROPOSED DEFAULT ORDER

This Order addresses the petition of Commission Staff to revoke the certificate of public convenience and necessity of Lancewood Water Supply Corporation for violations of the Texas Water Code¹ and Commission rules.² Commission Staff's petition is granted and certificate of convenience and necessity 10352 is revoked.

The Commission adopts the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

I. Findings of Fact

- 1. Lancewood is a retail public utility that was granted certificate of convenience and necessity 10352 on November 1, 1979.
- 2. Lancewood is located in Angelina County, Texas off Highway 103 West near the city of Lufkin.
- 3. On March 14, 1966, Lancewood filed an application with the Texas Secretary of State (SOS) to become a Texas corporation.
- 4. Lancewood has ceased to operate and is now listed as "DEAD BY ME" on the SOS's website.
- 5. Lancewood is no longer in business and the facilities it used to provide continuous and adequate service are inactive.
- 6. Lancewood is survived by Woodlawn Water Supply Corporation, certificate 10354.
- 7. On June 18, 2018, Commission Staff filed a petition and provided notice of opportunity for hearing seeking revocation of Lancewood's certificate 10352.

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¹ Tex. Water Code Ann. § 13.254 (West 2008 and Supp. 2016) (TWC).

² 16 Texas Admin. Code § 24.113 (TAC).

- 8. The Petition included the required disclosure in at least 12-point, bold-face type.
- 9. The Petition was sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the addresses Commission Staff was able to find for Lancewood after reasonable investigation. More specifically, the petition was sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address that Lancewood most recently had on file with the Commission and the SOS.
- 10. More than 30 days have passed since service of the petition to Lancewood.
- 11. Lancewood did not request a hearing on the merits.

II. Conclusions of Law

- Texas Water Code (TWC) § 13.242 provides that a "utility ... may not in any way render retail water ... utility service directly or indirectly to the public without first having obtained from the utility commission a certificate that the present or future public convenience and necessity will require that installation, operation, or extension."
- 2. Under 16 Tex. Admin. Code (TAC) § 24.3(14), a CCN is "[a] permit issued by the commission which authorizes and obligates a retail public utility to furnish, make available, render, or extend continuous and adequate retail water or sewer utility service to a specified geographic area."
- 3. Under 16 TAC § 24.3(58), a retail public utility is "[a]ny person, corporation, public utility, water supply or sewer service corporation, municipality, political subdivision or agency operating, maintaining, or controlling in this state facilities for providing potable water service or sewer service, or both, for compensation."
- 4. TWC § 13.250 and 16 TAC § 24.114 require a retail public utility that possesses a certificate to provide "continuous and adequate service."
- 5. If the Commission finds that a retail public utility that possesses a certificate "has never provided, is no longer providing, is incapable of providing, or has failed to provide continuous and adequate service in the area, or part of the area, covered by the certificate" in violation of TWC § 13.250 and 16 TAC § 24.114, the Commission may revoke the CCN pursuant to TWC § 13.254 and 16 TAC § 24.113.
- Lancewood failed to meet the performance requirements for a certificate holder in TWC § 13.250 and 16 TAC § 24.114 when it ceased operating and ceased to provide continuous and adequate service.

- 7. Lancewood is incapable of providing continuous and adequate service in the area covered by certificate 10352.
- Issuance of a default order against Lancewood is appropriate because Lancewood failed to request a hearing within 30 days of service of the notice of an opportunity for a hearing, as provided in 16 TAC § 22.183(a).
- 9. The requirements for disposition by default in 16 TAC § 22.183 have been met in this proceeding.

III. Ordering Paragraphs

In accordance with these findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission issues the following order:

- 1. Commission Staff's petition is granted.
- 2. Lancewood's certificate 10352 is revoked.
- 3. The Commission shall not be constrained in any manner from requiring additional action or penalties for violations.
- 4. All other motions, requests for entry of specific findings of fact and conclusions of law, and any other request for general or specific relief, if not expressly granted herein, are denied.

Signed at Austin, Texas, the _____ day of _____, 2018.

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

DEANN T. WALKER, CHAIRMAN

ARTHUR C. D'ANDREA, COMMISSIONER

SHELLY BOTKIN, COMMISSIONER

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<u>Attachment Two</u> <u>Affidavit of Tasha Lopez</u>

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LANCEWOOD WATER SUPPLY	8
CORPORATION'S CERTIFICATE OF	8
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND	8
NECESSITY PURSUANT TO TEX.	8
WATER CODE ANN. § 13.254 AND 16	8
TAC § 24.113	ŝ

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF TEXAS

AFFIDAVIT OF TASHA LOPEZ

	S
STATE OF TEXAS	Ş
TRAVIS COUNTY	8

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared, Tasha Lopez, and being by me duly sworn, upon oath declared that the statements and capacity acted in are true and correct.

"My name is Tasha Lopez. I am the legal assistant in the Oversight & Enforcement Division of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission). I am over the age of twenty-one and I am competent to make this Affidavit. In accordance with 16 TAC § 22.183(b), I mailed, by certified mail, a copy of Commission Staff's Petition to Revoke Lancewood Water Supply Corporation's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity filed on June 18, 2018, to Lancewood Water Supply, Inc., and T.M. Whichard Jr, on June 18, 2018, to the last known addresses. Please see the attached tracking information for each item and copy of the application.

Lancewood Water Supply, Inc. PO Box 3001 Hudson, Texas 75901 T.M. Whichard Jr. 1308 Western Dr. Lufkin, Texas 75904

ANT: Tasha Lopez

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME this The day of August 2018.



Notary without Bond

Notary Public for the State of Texas

I

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Ship Request Form

Ship Request #: 169467 Sender Recipient Name: Tasha Lopez Attn To: Lancewood Water Supply Account #: 47300 PUC Company: Lancewood Water Supply Phone: 512-936-7401 Address: P.O Box 3001 Email: City: Company: Public Utility Commission Hudson State: ТΧ Zip: 75901 eRR Track: 9171999991703104788330 US **Country: Shipping Instructions**

Items					
Units 0.00	Description	Code	Origin	Unit Value	Total Value

CMRR Lancewood Water Supply, Inc. (Returned)



FAQs > (http://faq.usps.com/?articleId=220900)

Track Another Package +

Tracking Number: 9171999991703104788330

Your item has been delivered to the original sender at 1:27 pm on July 2, 2018 in AUSTIN, TX 78711.

Oracle Contract Delivered

July 2, 2018 at 1:27 pm Delivered, To Original Sender AUSTIN, TX 78711

Return Receipt Electronic

Tracking History

July 2, 2018, 1:27 pm Delivered, To Original Sender AUSTIN, TX 78711 Your item has been delivered to the original sender at 1:27 pm on July 2, 2018 in AUSTIN, TX 78711.

June 30, 2018, 2:42 pm Available for Pickup AUSTIN, TX 78711

June 30, 2018, 1:42 pm Arrived at Unit AUSTIN, TX 78701 Remove X

 \checkmark

June 30, 2018 In Transit to Next Facility

June 29, 2018, 4:51 pm Departed USPS Regional Origin Facility AUSTIN TX DISTRIBUTION CENTER

June 29, 2018, 4:12 am Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility AUSTIN TX DISTRIBUTION CENTER

June 28, 2018 In Transit to Next Facility

June 27, 2018, 12:19 pm Departed USPS Regional Destination Facility NORTH HOUSTON TX DISTRIBUTION CENTER

June 20, 2018, 2:50 pm Insufficient Address LUFKIN, TX 75903

June 20, 2018, 2:50 pm Unable to deliver item, problem with address LUFKIN, TX 75903

June 20, 2018, 2:50 pm Arrived at Unit LUFKIN, TX 75903

June 20, 2018 In Transit to Next Facility

June 19, 2018, 7:26 am Arrived at USPS Regional Destination Facility NORTH HOUSTON TX DISTRIBUTION CENTER

https://tools.usps.com/go/TrackConfirmAction?tRof=fullnage&tt.c=?&tevt?8777=&tt.abels=Q171QQQQQ17D31D478833D%2C

June 18, 2018, 8:35 pm Departed USPS Regional Facility AUSTIN TX DISTRIBUTION CENTER

June 18, 2018, 7:24 pm Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility AUSTIN TX DISTRIBUTION CENTER

June 18, 2018, 6:09 pm Accepted at USPS Origin Facility AUSTIN, TX 78701

June 18, 2018 Pre-Shipment Info Sent to USPS, USPS Awaiting Item

Product Information

See Less 🔨

Can't find what you're looking for?

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.

FAQs (http://faq.usps.com/?articleId=220900)

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- Automatically track the packages you're expecting.
- Set up email and text alerts so you don't need to enter tracking numbers.
- Enter USPS Delivery Instructions[™] for your mail carrier.

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(https://reg.usps.com/entreg/RegistrationAction_input?

*NOTE: Black and white (grayscale) images show the outside, front of letter-sized envelopes and mailpieces that are processed and the state of the s

Ship Request Form

Ship Request #: 169469



	Recipient	
Tasha Lopez	Attn To:	T M Whichard, Jr
47300 PUC	Company:	T M Whichard, Jr
512-936-7401	Address:	1308 Western Drive
Public Utility Commission	City:	Lufkin
	State:	ТХ
	Zip:	75904
9171999991703104788323	Country:	US
	47300 PUC 512-936-7401 Public Utility Commission	Tasha LopezAttn To:47300 PUCCompany:512-936-7401Address:Public Utility CommissionCity:State:Zip:

Shipping Instructions

ltems		 			
Units	Description	Code	Origin	Unit Value	Total Value
0 00					

CMRR T.M. Whichard, Jr. (Returned)



FAQs > (http://faq.usps.com/?articleId=220900)

Track Another Package +

Tracking Number: 9171999991703104788323

Your item was delivered at 12:45 pm on June 25, 2018 in AUSTIN, TX 78711.

Oracle Contract Delivered

June 25, 2018 at 12:45 pm Delivered AUSTIN, TX 78711

Return Receipt Electronic

Tracking History

June 25, 2018, 12:45 pm Delivered AUSTIN, TX 78711 Your item was delivered at 12:45 pm on June 25, 2018 in AUSTIN, TX 78711.

June 25, 2018, 9:56 am Arrived at Unit AUSTIN, TX 78701

June 24, 2018, 9:14 pm Departed USPS Regional Origin Facility AUSTIN TX DISTRIBUTION CENTER

June 24, 2018 In Transit to Next Facility Remove X



June 23, 2018, 1:56 pm

Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility AUSTIN TX DISTRIBUTION CENTER

June 23, 2018 In Transit to Next Facility

June 22, 2018, 1:28 pm Departed USPS Regional Destination Facility NORTH HOUSTON TX DISTRIBUTION CENTER

June 20, 2018, 2:36 pm Unable to deliver item, problem with address LUFKIN, TX 75904

June 20, 2018, 8:47 am Out for Delivery LUFKIN, TX 75904

June 20, 2018, 8:37 am Sorting Complete LUFKIN, TX 75904

June 20, 2018, 7:38 am Arrived at Unit LUFKIN, TX 75904

June 19, 2018, 7:26 am Arrived at USPS Regional Destination Facility NORTH HOUSTON TX DISTRIBUTION CENTER

June 18, 2018, 8:35 pm Departed USPS Regional Facility AUSTIN TX DISTRIBUTION CENTER

June 18, 2018, 7:24 pm Arrived at USPS Regional Origin Facility AUSTIN TX DISTRIBUTION CENTER June 18, 2018, 6:09 pm Accepted at USPS Origin Facility AUSTIN, TX 78701

June 18, 2018 Pre-Shipment Info Sent to USPS, USPS Awaiting Item

Product Information

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See Less 🔨

Can't find what you're looking for?

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.

FAQs (http://faq.usps.com/?articleId=220900)

The easiest tracking number is the one you don't have to know.

With Informed Delivery[®], you never have to type in another tracking number. Sign up to:

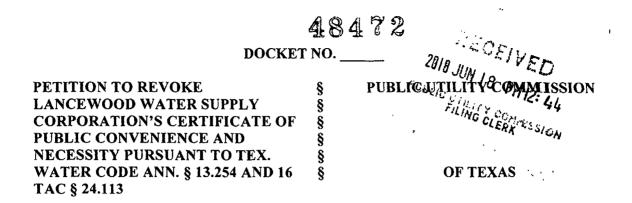
- See images* of incoming mail.
- Automatically track the packages you're expecting.
- Set up email and text alerts so you don't need to enter tracking numbers.
- Enter USPS Delivery Instructions[™] for your mail carrier.

Sign Up

(https://reg.usps.com/entreg/RegistrationAction_input?

*NOTE: Black and white (grayscale) images show the outside, front of letter-sized envelopes and mailpieces that are processed and the state of the s

Petition to Revoke



COMMISSION STAFF'S PETITION TO REVOKE LANCEWOOD WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION'S CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) files this Petition to Revoke Lancewood Water Supply Corporation's Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (Petition) and hereby provides notice of the opportunity to request a hearing on the merits of this Petition.

I. INTRODUCTION

For the reasons discussed below, the water service Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CCN) No. 10352 for Lancewood Water Supply Corporation (Lancewood) should be revoked. Upon investigation, Staff has determined that the Public Water System associated with Lancewood is inactive, and that the CCN should be revoked.

In the event Lancewood fails to request a hearing within thirty days of service of this Petition, a default order should be issued, without additional notice to Lancewood, granting all relief sought in this Petition. In support of this Petition, Staff respectfully shows the following:

II. JURISDICTION AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Commission is authorized to regulate and supervise the business of each water and sewer utility within its jurisdiction.¹ Pursuant to Tex. Water Code Ann. § 13.242 (West Supp. 2014) (TWC), a "water supply or sewer service corporation may not in any way render retail water or sewer utility service directly or indirectly to the public without first having obtained from the

¹ Tex. Water Code Ann. § 13.041 (West Supp. 2014) (TWC).

utility commission a certificate that the present or future public convenience and necessity will require that installation, operation, or extension."

A CCN is defined as "[a] permit issued by the commission which authorizes and obligates a retail public utility to furnish, make available, render, or extend continuous and adequate retail water or sewer service to a specified geographic area."² A retail public utility is "[a] ny person corporation, public utility, water supply or sewer service corporation, municipality, political subdivision or agency operating, maintaining, or controlling in this state facilities for providing potable water service or sewer service, or both, for compensation."³

A retail public utility that possesses a CCN is required to provide "continuous and adequate service."⁴ A retail public utility that possesses a CCN and fails to provide continuous and adequate service may be subject to revocation.⁵ As part of this authority, the Commission, "after notice and hearing, may revoke or amend any" CCN if the Commission finds that "the certificate holder has never provided, is no longer providing, is incapable of providing, or has failed to provide continuous and adequate service in the area, or part of the area, covered by the certificate."⁶

Pursuant to the contested case provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act,⁷ a party is entitled to an opportunity for a hearing after reasonable notice of not less than 10 days, where the party may respond to and present evidence and argument on each issue involved in the case.⁸ If a hearing is not requested within thirty days after service of notice of an opportunity for hearing, a default occurs.⁹ Upon default, the presiding officer may issue a default order, revoking the certificate without a hearing on an informal basis.¹⁰

III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Lancewood is located in Angelina County, Texas off Highway 103 West near the City of Lufkin. On March 14, 1966, Lancewood filed an application with the Secretary of State to become a Texas corporation. In 1979, Lancewood was granted CNN No. 10352. The utility has ceased to

² 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 24.3(15) (TAC).

³ TWC § 13.002(19) and 16 TAC § 24.3(58).

⁴ See TWC § 13.250(a) and 16 TAC § 24.114.

⁵ TWC § 13.254(a)(1) and 16 TAC 24.113(a)(1).

⁶ Id.

⁷ Administrative Procedure Act, Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 2001.001-.902 (West 2008 & Supp. 2014) (APA).

⁸ APA §§ 2001.051-.178.

⁹ 16 TAC § 22.183.

¹⁰ APA § 2001.056(4) and 16 TAC § 22.183.

operate and is now listed as "DEAD BY ME" on the Secretary of State's website. Staff's review of Commission's records indicate that Lancewood is no longer in business, and the facilities it used to provide continuous and adequate service are inactive. Therefore, Lancewood is no longer providing, and is incapable of providing, continuous and adequate service. Lancewood is survived by Woodlawn Water Supply Corporation (CCN 10354).

IV. RECOMMENDATION FOR REVOCATION

The Commission should revoke Lancewood's CCN No. 10352 because Lancewood is no longer in business, and the facilities it used to provide continuous and adequate service are inactive.¹¹ As long as CCN No. 10352 continues to remain in effect, it may be a violation of Commission rules for another company to provide service in the certificated area.¹²

For the above stated reasons, Staff recommends revocation of CCN No. 10352 pursuant to TWC § 13.254(a)(1) and 16 TAC § 24.113(i)(1)(A).

V. NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

16 TAC § 22.54 and 22.55 require Staff to provide reasonable notice to persons affected by a proceeding in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.¹³ In license revocation proceedings, APA § 2001.054 requires that notice be given "by personal service or by registered or certified mail to the license holder of facts or conduct alleged to warrant the intended action." In order to proceed on a default basis, 16 TAC § 22.183 requires Staff to provide notice by certified mail, return receipt requested: (a) to a certificate holder's last known address in the Commission's records; (b) to the person's registered agent for process on file with the Secretary of State; or (3) to an address for the party identified after reasonable investigation if the first two options are not applicable.

In accordance with these provisions, Staff will provide a copy of this petition by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Lancewood's last known address in the TCEQ's and Commission's records:

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¹¹ See TWC § 13.254(a)(1) and 16 TAC 24.113(i)(1)(A).

¹² See TWC § 13.242.

¹³ APA §§ 2001.001-.902.

Lancewood Water Supply, Inc. P.O. Box 3001 Hudson, Texas 75901

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Staff will also provide a copy of this petition by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address for the registered agent for process on file with the Secretary of State:

T. M. Whichard Jr. 1308 Western Dr. Lufkin, Texas 75904

Pursuant to 16 TAC § 22.183, Staff hereby notifies Lancewood that the factual allegations in this petition could be deemed admitted and the relief sought herein granted by default if Lancewood fails to request a hearing within 30 days after service of the Petition and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. The purpose of a hearing on the merits is to consider revocation of Lancewood's CCN No. 10352. If Lancewood fails to request a hearing, the presiding officer may issue a default order on an informal basis without a hearing on the merits pursuant to APA § 2001.056(4) and 16 TAC § 22.183.

<u>The factual allegations listed in Staff's Petition and Notice of Opportunity</u> for a Hearing could be deemed admitted and the relief sought herein could be granted by default if you fail to timely request a hearing.

VI. REQUEST

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Staff respectfully requests that the Commission grants Staff's request to revoke Lancewood's CCN No. 10352. In the event that Lancewood fails to request a hearing on the merits, Staff requests that the Commission issue a default final order, with no further notice to Lancewood, revoking CCN No. 10352.

Respectfully Submitted,

C ih

Taylor Kilroy Attorney, Oversight and Enforcement Division State Bar No. 24087844 (512) 936-7127 (512) 936-7208 (facsimile) Public Utility Commission of Texas 1701 N. Congress Avenue P.O. Box 13326 Austin, Texas 78701-3326

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on June 18, 2018, pursuant to 16 TAC § 22.183(b)(2), a copy of this document was sent certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of Lancewood Water Supply, Inc. (Lancewood) in the Commission's records, to addresses used in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) proceedings, to the address for the registered agent for process on file with the Secretary of State:

Lancewood's Last Known Address in Commission Records:

Lancewood Water Supply, Inc. P.O. Box 3001 Hudson, Texas 75901

Address for the registered agent for process on file with the Secretary of State:

T. M. Whichard Jr. 1308 Western Dr. Lufkin, Texas 75904

Taylor Kilroy

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Attachment 1

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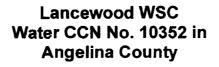
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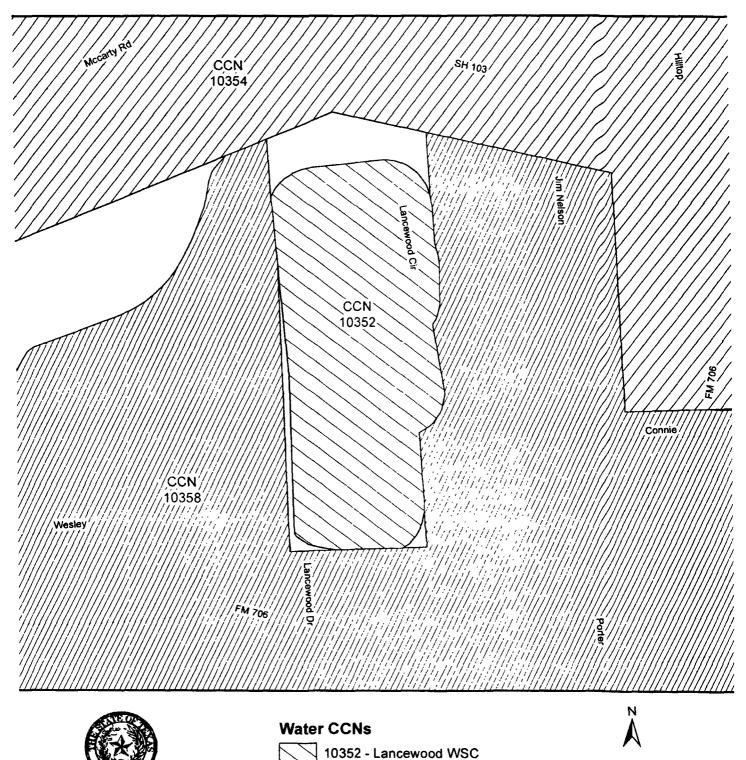
Map of Water Service Certificate of Convenience and Necessity

No. 10352

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10354 - Woodlawn WSC

/// 10358 - Hudson WSC

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Public Utility Commission of Texas 1701 N. Congress Ave Austin, TX 78701

Map by: Kristy Nguyen Date created: May 25, 2018 Project path: n:\10352 lancewood\10352 lancewood

800

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1,600

Attachment 2

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Water Service Certificate of Convenience and Necessity

Public Utility Commission of Texas By These Presents Be It Known To All That

LANCEHOOD WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

having duly applied for certification to provide water utility service for the convenience and necessity of the public, and it having been determined by this Commission that the public convenience and necessity would in fact be advanced by the provision of such service by this Applicant, is entitled to and is hereby granted this

Certificate of Convenience and Necessity

numbered 10352, to provide water utility service to that service area or those service areas designated by final Order or Orders duly entered by this Commission, which Order or Orders are on file at the Commission offices in Austin, Texas; and are matters of official record available for public inspection; and be it known further that these

presents do evidence the authority and the duty of this Grantee to provide such utility service in accordance with the laws of this State and the Rules of this Commission, subject only to any power and responsibility of this Commission to revoke or amend this Certificate in whole or in part upon a subsequent showing that the public convenience and necessity would be better served thereby.

> Philip F. Ricketts SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION

Issued at Austin, Texas, this 1st day of November, 1979.