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#### **DOCKET NO. 52502**

APPLICATION OF TEXAS WATER	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SYSTEMS, INC. AND UNDINE	§	
DEVELOPMENT, LLC FOR SALE,	§	OF TEXAS
TRANSFER, OR MERGER OF	§	
FACILITIES AND CERTIFICATE	§	
RIGHTS IN GREGG, HENDERSON,	§	
SMITH, AND UPSHUR COUNTIES	§	

### COMMISSION STAFF'S SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLETENESS AND NOTICE AND PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

On September 2, 2021, Texas Water Systems, Inc. (TWS) and Undine Development, LLC (Undine) (collectively, Applicants) filed an application for approval of the sale, transfer, or merger of facilities and certificate rights in Gregg, Henderson, Smith, and Upshur counties. Specifically, Undine, water Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) No. 12407, seeks approval to acquire facilities and to transfer a portion of the water service area from TWS under water CCN No. 12473. Additionally, Undine is requesting to decertify portions of the water service area from TWS under CCN No. 12473 and to amend its CCN to add uncertificated service area. Finally, Undine seeks dual certification with portions of Pritchett Water Supply Corporation, CCN No. 10478, and Crystal Systems Texas, Inc., CCN No. 10804. The Applicants filed supplemental information on September 14, 2021, September 27, 2021, November 4, 2021, November 5, 2021, December 7, 2021, December 23, 2021, January 24, 2022, and February 1, 2022.

On February 1, 2022, the administrative law judge (ALJ) filed Order No. 5, establishing a deadline of February 7, 2022 for the Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to file supplemental comments on the administrative completeness of the application and proposed notice and to propose a procedural schedule for the further processing of this docket. Therefore, this pleading is timely filed.

#### I. ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLETENESS

Staff has reviewed the application and supplemental information and, as detailed in the attached memorandum from Patricia Garcia of the Commission's Infrastructure Division,

recommends that the application is administratively complete. Staff's recommendation on administrative completeness is not a comment on the merits of the application.

#### II. NOTICE

At this time, Staff recommends that the Applicants proceed with providing public notice to all current customers, neighboring utilities, political subdivisions, and other persons listed in the attached memorandum using the notice form provided by Ms. Garcia. Along with each individual notice, Staff recommends that the Applicants provide an accurate map delineating the requested service area.

Once notice has been provided, Staff recommends that the Applicants file proof of notice as described in the attached memorandum, including an affidavit specifying the name and address of every person and entity to whom notice was provided, the date that the notice was provided, and a copy of the map provided with the notice. Finally, Staff recommends that the Applicants use the attached notice and affidavit to meet these requirements.

### III. PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Staff recommends that the application be found administratively complete. Therefore, Staff proposes the following procedural schedule:

Event	Date
Deadline for the Applicants to file with the Commission signed affidavits that the notice was given along with a copy of the notice and map sent to the affected parties	March 10, 2022
Deadline for Staff to file a recommendation on sufficiency of notice	March 23, 2022
Deadline to intervene	30 days after notice is issued

### IV. CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, Staff recommends that the application be found administratively complete, that the Applicants be directed to provide notice as described in the attached memorandum, and that the proposed procedural schedule be adopted. Staff respectfully

requests the entry of an order consistent with these recommendations.

Dated: February 7, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

### PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS LEGAL DIVISION

Rachelle Nicolette Robles Division Director

Marisa Lopez Wagley Managing Attorney

/s/ Jenna Keller
Jenna Keller
State Bar No. 24123891
1701 N. Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
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(512) 936-7268 (facsimile)
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### **DOCKET NO. 52502**

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, notice of the filing of this document was provided to all parties of record via electronic mail on February 7, 2022, in accordance with the Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.

/s/ Jenna Keller Jenna Keller

### Public Utility Commission of Texas

### Memorandum

**TO:** Jenna Keller, Attorney

Legal Division

FROM: Patricia Garcia, Senior Engineering Specialist

Infrastructure Division

**DATE:** February 7, 2022

**RE:** Docket No. 52502 - Application of Texas Water Systems, Inc. and Undine

Development, LLC for Sale, Transfer, or Merger of Facilities and Certificate

Rights in Gregg, Henderson, Smith, and Upshur Counties

On September 2, 2021, Undine Development, LLC (Undine) and Texas Water Systems, Inc. (TWS) (collectively, Applicants) filed an application for sale, transfer, or merger (STM) of facilities and certificate rights and for dual certification with Pritchett Water Supply Corporation (Pritchett WSC) and Crystal Systems Texas, Inc. (Crystal Systems) in Gregg, Henderson, Smith, and Upshur Counties, Texas, pursuant to Texas Water Code (TWC) §§ 13.242 through 13.250 and § 13.301 and 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §§ 24.225 through 24.237 and § 24.239.

Specifically, Undine, certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) No. 12407, seeks approval to acquire facilities and to transfer a portion of the water service area from TWS under water CCN No. 12473. Additionally, Undine is requesting to decertify portions of the water service area from TWS under water CCN No. 12473 and to amend its CCN to add uncertificated service area. Finally, Undine seeks dual certification with portions of Pritchett WSC, CCN No. 10478, and Crystal Systems, CCN No. 10804.

The approximate total acreage for the requested area includes 10,619 acres [10,631 acres minus 12 acres to be decertified] with 1,116 total customer connections, comprised of:

- Transfer portions from TWS (CCN 12473) includes 5,669 acres;
- Decertify portions from TWS (CCN 12473) includes 12 acres;
- Uncertificated (add) Areas includes 4,921 acres;
- Obtain Dual Certification with portions of Pritchett WSC (CCN 10478) includes 8 acres; and
- Obtain Dual Certification with portions of Crystal Systems (CCN 10804) includes 21 acres.

Based on the mapping review by Tracy Montes, Infrastructure Division, the digital data filed on September 2, 2021 (Item 1), and December 23, 2021 (Item 18), in addition to the revised maps submitted on January 24, 2022 (Item 24), are sufficient. Based on my technical and managerial review of the additional information filed on December 7, 2021, I recommend that the application be deemed administratively complete. I further recommend that the Applicants be ordered to do the following:

- 1) Provide notice of the application by first-class mail to the following:
  - a. Cities, districts, and neighboring retail public utilities providing the same utility service whose corporate boundaries or certificated service area are located within two miles from the outer boundary of the requested area:
    - Aqua Texas Inc. (CCN No. 13201)
    - Ben Wheeler Water Supply Corporation (WSC) (CCN No. 10749)
    - Bi County WSC (CCN No. 10490)
    - Carroll WSC (CCN No. 10765)
    - City of Gilmer (CCN No. 11264)
    - City of Hideaway
    - City of Hughes Springs (CCN No. 10531)
    - City of Lindale (CCN No. 12795)
    - City of Longview (CCN No. 10361)
    - City of Ore City (CCN No. 10424)
    - *City of Tyler (CCN No. 10772)*
    - *City of Van (CCN No. 10768)*
    - City of White Oak (CCN No. 10422)
    - Crystal Systems Texas, Inc. (CCN No. 10804)
    - Diana Special Utility District (CCN No. 10425)
    - Liberty City WSC (CCN No. 10408)
    - Lindale Rural WSC (CCN No. 10758)
    - Mims WSC (CCN No. 11650)
    - Monarch Utilities I LP (CCN No. 12983)
    - Pritchett WSC (CCN No. 10478)
    - RPM WSC (CCN No. 10787)
    - Sharon WSC (CCN No. 10476)
    - Southern Utilities Company (CCN No. 10762)
    - Town of Coffee City
    - Angelina & Neches River Authority
    - Cypress Valley Navigation District
    - Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
    - Sabine River Authority
    - Upper Sabine Valley SWMD
  - b. The county judge of each county that is wholly or partially included in the requested area:
    - Gregg County Judge
    - Henderson County Judge

- Smith County Judge
- Upshur County Judge
- c. Each groundwater conservation district that is wholly or partially included in the requested area:
  - Neches & Trinity Valleys Groundwater Conservation District
- d. Each owner of a tract of land that is at least 25 acres and is wholly or partly located in the requested area. Notice must be mailed to the owner of the tract of land according to the most current tax appraisal rolls of the applicable central appraisal district at the time the application was filed.
- e. Any affected customers, and other affected parties in the requested area.

Addresses can be obtained from the Water Utility Database at <a href="http://www.puc.texas.gov/watersearch">http://www.puc.texas.gov/watersearch</a>. District information and addresses can be obtained from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) web site located at <a href="https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/iwud/index.cfm">https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/iwud/index.cfm</a>.

- 2) Publish notice in a newspaper having general circulation in each county where the requested area is located, once each week for two consecutive weeks. Proof in the form of a publisher's affidavit must be filed within 30 days of the publication date. The affidavit must state with specificity each county in which the newspaper is of general circulation. Within 30 days of the date the notice was mailed, Undine must file an affidavit specifying the notice that was provided to every person and entity to whom notice was provided and the date the notice was mailed.
- 3) Provide notice using the attached notice form(s).
- 4) Provide a copy of the map(s) deemed sufficient during administrative review delineating the requested area with each individual notice to neighboring utilities, other affected parties, landowners and customers.
- 5) File in the docket copy of notice and the map(s) deemed sufficient during administrative review along with the signed affidavit specifying every person and entity to whom notice was provided, the date that the notice was provided, and the publisher's affidavit and tear sheets for proof of newspaper publication.

Staff may determine that additional information is needed to make a final recommendation in this docket. If additional information is needed, Staff may send requests for information (RFI) to Undine and TWS. Undine and TWS will have 20 days from the receipt of the RFI to respond.

Notice to Current Customers, Landowners, Neighboring Systems, and Cities Undine Development, LLC, Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) No. 12407, Notice of Intent to Amend Its CCN, to Purchase Water Facilities and to Transfer Water Service Area under CCN No. 12473 From Texas Water Systems, Inc., and for Dual Certification with Portions of Both Pritchett Water Supply Corporation, CCN No. 10478, and Crystal Systems Texas, Inc., CCN No. 10804, In Gregg, Henderson, Smith, and Upshur Counties, Texas

To: (Name of Customer, Neighborn)	hharing Su	votem or City)	Date Notice Mailed:	, 20
(Name of Customer, New	gnooring sy	stem, or City)		
(Address)				
(City	State	Zip)		
Undine Development, LLC	C	17681 Telge Road	Cypress, TX	77429
(Purchaser's Name)		(Address)	(City), (State)	(Zip Code)

has submitted an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to amend uncertificated service area to CCN No. 12407, for dual certification with portions of both Pritchett Water Supply Corporation, CCN No. 10478, and Crystal Systems Texas, Inc., CCN No. 10804, and to purchase all of the water facilities and to transfer water certificated service area under CCN No. 12473, in Gregg, Henderson, Smith, and Upshur Counties, TX from:

Texas Water Systems, Inc.	7891 Highway 271	Tyler, TX	75708
(Seller's Name)	(Address)	(City), (State)	(Zip Code)

The sale is scheduled to take place if approved by the Commission (Texas Water Code § 13.301). The transaction and the transfer of the CCN includes the following subdivisions:

#### Camp Joy

The requested area subject to this transaction is located within approximately <u>2</u> miles <u>north-northeast</u> of downtown <u>Ore City</u>, Texas, and is generally bounded on the <u>north</u> by <u>a line approx.</u> half mile south of <u>Upshur County Landing Road</u>; on the <u>east</u> by <u>Lake O' the Pines</u>; on the <u>south</u> by <u>Upshur/Marion County Line</u>; and on the <u>west</u> by <u>North Front Street</u> in <u>Upshur County</u>. The requested area includes approximately <u>406</u> acres and serves <u>119</u> customer connections.

### **Cape Tranquility**

The requested area subject to this transaction is located within approximately 2 miles <u>north</u> of downtown <u>Coffee City</u>, Texas, and is generally bounded on the <u>north</u> by <u>Jamison Drive</u>; on the <u>east and south</u> by <u>Lake Palestine</u>; and on the <u>west</u> by <u>approximately 200 feet west of County Road 4202 in <u>Henderson County</u>. The requested area includes approximately <u>81</u> acres and serves 70 customer connections.</u>

### **Country Club Estates**

The requested area subject to this transaction is located within approximately 2 miles south-southwest of downtown Gilmer, Texas, and is generally bounded on the north by State Highway 155; on the east by U.S. Highway 271 South; on the south by Sugar Creek; and on the west by Notice Form Updated: October 22, 2021

<u>Farm to Market 2685</u> in <u>Upshur County</u>. The requested area includes approximately <u>23</u> acres and serves 34 customer connections.

### **Friendship**

The requested area subject to this transaction is located within approximately 1.3 miles west of downtown Gilmer, Texas, and is generally bounded on the north by Lake Gilmer and Kelsey Creek; on the east by Brooks Creek and North Bradford Street; on the south by State Highway 154; and on the west by Farm to Market 852 and Kelsey Creek in Upshur County. The requested area includes approximately 1,091 acres and serves 92 customer connections.

### **Garden Acres**

The requested area subject to this transaction is located within approximately <u>4.5</u> miles <u>west</u> of downtown <u>Longview</u>, Texas, and is generally bounded on the <u>north</u> by <u>Mistletoe Street</u>; on the <u>east</u> by <u>Swinging Bridge Road</u>; on the <u>south</u> by <u>Sabine River</u>; and on the <u>west</u> by <u>Hawkins Creek</u> in <u>Gregg County</u>. The requested area includes approximately <u>256</u> acres and serves <u>79</u> customer connections.

### **Harmony and Rosewood**

The requested area subject to this transaction is located within approximately <u>6.2</u> miles <u>west</u> of downtown <u>Gilmer</u>, Texas, and is generally bounded on the <u>north</u> by <u>Farm to Market 852</u>; on the <u>east</u> by <u>Farm to Market 1795 and State Highway 154</u>; on the <u>south</u> by <u>Cedar Road</u>; and on the <u>west</u> by <u>Raintree Lakes and Kelsey Creek</u> in <u>Upshur County</u>. The requested area includes approximately 1,807 acres and serves 199 customer connections.

### **Mount Sylvan**

The requested area subject to this transaction is located within approximately <u>4.6</u> miles <u>southwest</u> of downtown <u>Lindale</u>, Texas, and is generally bounded on the <u>north</u> by <u>Interstate Highway 20</u>; on the <u>east</u> by <u>the intersection of State Highway 110 and County Road 412</u>; on the <u>south</u> by <u>Neches River & County Road 49</u>; and on the <u>west</u> by <u>Mill Break Creek & Neches River</u> in <u>Smith County</u>. The requested area includes approximately <u>4,880</u> acres (includes 12 acres to be decertified) and serves <u>312</u> customer connections.

### Stallion Lake and Garden Valley Resort

The requested area subject to this transaction is located within approximately <u>3.5</u> miles <u>east-southeast</u> of downtown <u>Van</u>, Texas, and is generally bounded on the <u>north by the intersection of County Road 424 and State Highway 110</u>; and <u>east by State Highway 110</u>; on the <u>south by Neches River and Mill Break Creek</u>; and on the <u>west by County Road 426</u> in <u>Smith County</u>. The requested area includes approximately <u>2,087</u> acres and serves <u>211</u> customer connections.

# Approximate total acreage for the requested area includes 10,619 acres [10,631 acres minus 12 acres to be decertified] with 1,116 total customer connections, comprised of:

- Transfer Areas from Texas Water Systems (CCN 12473) includes 5,669 acres:
- Decertify Areas from Texas Water Systems (CCN 12473) includes 12 acres;
- Uncertificated (add) Areas includes 4,921 acres;
- Dual Areas with Pritchett WSC (CCN 10478) includes 8 acres; and
- Dual Areas with Crystal Systems (CCN 10804) includes 21 acres.

The requested area overlaps the district boundaries of the Upper Sabine Valley SWMD. If the Upper Sabine Valley SWMD does not request a public hearing, the Commission shall determine that the district is consenting to the Undine Development, LLC's request to provide retail water utility service in the requested area.

### See enclosed map showing the requested areas.

The proposed transaction may change the current customers' rates and services to the current approved rates and services of <u>Undine Development, LLC</u>, which are higher than the current rate for a 5/8" meter plus gallonage for <u>Texas Water Systems</u>, <u>Inc</u>. To view a copy of the current approved tariff, go to:

https://undinellc.com/Tariff/Undine%20Development%20Water%20Tariff.pdf

Or email info@undinellc.com or call (713) 574-5953 to request a copy.

Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon action sought should contact the Public Utility Commission, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is (30 days from the mailing or publication of notice, whichever occurs later, unless otherwise provided by the presiding officer). You must send a letter requesting intervention to the commission which is received by that date. The letter must include the person's name, address, email address and fax number if applicable.

If a valid public hearing is requested, the Commission will forward the application to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for a hearing. If no settlement is reached and an evidentiary hearing is held, SOAH will submit a recommendation to the Commission for final decision. An evidentiary hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

A landowner with a tract of land at least 25 acres or more, that is partially or wholly located within the requested area, may file a written request with the Commission to be excluded from the requested area ("opt out") within (30) days from the date that notice was provided by the Utility. All opt out requests must include a large-scale map, a metes and bounds description of the landowner's tract of land, landowner's name, address, email address and fax number, if applicable.

Persons who wish to request this option should file the required documents with the:

Public Utility Commission of Texas Central Records 1701 N. Congress, P. O. Box 13326 Austin, TX 78711-3326

In addition, the landowner must also send a copy of the opt out request to the Utility. Staff may request additional information regarding your request.

Si desea información e	n español, puede llamar al 1-888-782-8477.
Utility Representative	
Utility Name	

### Notice for Publication

UNDINE DEVELOPMENT, LLC, CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY (CCN) NO. 12407, NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND ITS CCN, TO PURCHASE WATER FACILITIES AND TO TRANSFER WATER SERVICE AREA UNDER CCN NO. 12473 FROM TEXAS WATER SYSTEMS, INC., AND FOR DUAL CERTIFICATION WITH PORTIONS OF BOTH PRITCHETT WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION, CCN NO. 10478, AND CRYSTAL SYSTEMS TEXAS, INC., CCN NO. 10804, IN GREGG, HENDERSON, SMITH, AND UPSHUR COUNTIES, TEXAS

Undine Development, LLC	17681 Telge Road	Cypress, TX	77429
(Purchaser's Name)	(Address)	(City), (State)	(Zip Code)

has submitted an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to amend uncertificated area to CCN No. 12407, for dual certification with portions of both Pritchett Water Supply Corporation, CCN No. 10478, and Crystal Systems Texas, Inc., CCN No. 10804, and to purchase all of the water facilities and to transfer water certificated service area under CCN No. 12473, in Gregg, Henderson, Smith, and Upshur Counties, TX from:

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<u>Creek</u>; on the <u>east</u> by <u>Brooks Creek and North Bradford Street</u>; on the <u>south</u> by <u>State Highway</u> <u>154</u>; and on the <u>west</u> by <u>Farm to Market 852 and Kelsey Creek</u> in <u>Upshur County</u>. The requested area includes approximately 1,091 acres and serves 92 customer connections.

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The requested area overlaps the district boundaries of the Upper Sabine Valley SWMD. If the Upper Sabine Valley SWMD does not request a public hearing, the Commission shall determine that the district is consenting to the Undine Development, LLC's request to provide retail water utility service in the requested area.

See enclosed map showing the requested areas.

The proposed transaction may change the current customers' rates and services to the current approved rates and services of <u>Undine Development, LLC</u>, which are higher than the current rate for a 5/8" meter plus gallonage for <u>Texas Water Systems</u>, <u>Inc</u>. To view a copy of the current approved tariff, go to:

https://undinellc.com/Tariff/Undine%20Development%20Water%20Tariff.pdf

Or email <u>info@undinellc.com</u> or call <u>(713) 574-5953</u> to request a copy.

Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon action sought should contact the Public Utility Commission, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is (30 days from the mailing or publication of notice, whichever occurs later, unless otherwise provided by the presiding officer). You must send a letter requesting intervention to the commission which is received by that date. The letter must include the person's name, address, email address and fax number if applicable.

If a valid public hearing is requested, the Commission will forward the application to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for a hearing. If no settlement is reached and an evidentiary hearing is held, SOAH will submit a recommendation to the Commission for a final decision. An evidentiary hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

A landowner with a tract of land at least 25 acres or more, that is partially or wholly located within the uncertificated requested area, may file a written request with the Commission to be excluded from the requested area ("opt out") within (30) days from the date that notice was provided by the Utility. All opt out requests must include a large-scale map, a metes and bounds description of the landowner's tract of land, landowner's name, address, email address and fax number, if applicable.

Persons who wish to request this option should file the required documents with the:

Public Utility Commission of Texas Central Records 1701 N. Congress, P. O. Box 13326 Austin, TX 78711-3326

In addition, the landowner must also send a copy of the opt out request to the Utility. Staff may request additional information regarding your request.

Si desea información en español, puede llamar al 1-888-782-8477.

### PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS



# AFFIDAVIT OF NOTICE TO CURRENT CUSTOMERS, LANDOWNERS, NEIGHBORING UTILITIES, AND AFFECTED PARTIES DOCKET NO. 52502

STATE OF TEXAS		
COUNTY OF		
notice to the following entities and custome	****	has provided individual
-	15.	DATE OF NOTICE
	_ _ _	
	_	
	OATH	
owner, member of partnership, title of office applicant); that in such capacity, I am qual personally familiar with the notices given w requirements in the application and application and matters set for therein are true and correspondent.	(indicate release of corporation, or other of corporation, or other ified and authorized to with this application, and on acceptance letter; are	lationship to applicant, that is, ner authorized representative of file and verify such form, amd have complied with all notice
Applicant's Authorized Representative		
If the applicant to this form is any person oth or its attorney, a properly verified Power of		
Subscribed and sworn to before me this to certify which witness my hand and seal of	day of	
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas		
Print or Type Name of Notary Public		
Commission Expires		
Notice Form Updated: October 22, 2021		

### PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS



# PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT DOCKET NO. 52502

COUNTY OF		
Before me, the undersigned authority, on this	day personally appeared	
who being by me duly sworn, deposes and tha		
of the		
(TITLE) of the	(NAME OF NEWSPAPER)	
that said newspaper is regularly published in _		
	(COUNTY/COUNTIES)	
and generally circulated in		, Texas;
(COUNT	TY/COUNTIES)	
and that the attached notice was published in s	said newspaper on the following da	ates, to wit:
(DATES)	)	
(SIGNATURE OF NEWSPAPER REPRESENTA	ATIVE)	
Subscribed and sworn to before me this to certify which witness my hand and seal of c		, 20
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas		
Print or Type Name of Notary Public		

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STATE OF TEXAS