

## **Filing Receipt**

Filing Date - 2024-05-28 01:56:38 PM

Control Number - 53922

Item Number - 44

#### **DOCKET NO. 53922**

| APPLICATION OF SKYLINE DRIVE    | § | PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION WATER    | § |                           |
| SYSTEM AND JOHNSON COUNTY       | § | OF TEXAS                  |
| SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT FOR    | § |                           |
| SALE, TRANSFER OR MERGER OF     | § |                           |
| FACILITIES AND TO AMEND JOHNSON | § |                           |
| COUNTY SPECIAL UTILITY          | § |                           |
| DISTRICT'S WATER CERTIFICATE OF | § |                           |
| CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY IN    | § |                           |
| JOHNSON COUNTY                  | § |                           |

## JOINT SUPPLEMENTAL MOTION TO ADMIT EVIDENCE AND PROPOSED NOTICE OF APPROVAL

On August 1, 2022, Skyline Drive Landowners Association Water System (SDLA) and Johnson County Special Utility District (Johnson County SUD) (collectively, Applicants) filed an application for approval of the sale, transfer, or merger (STM) of facilities and certificate rights in Johnson County. Specifically, Johnson County SUD, Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) No. 10081, seeks approval to acquire facilities and to transfer all of the water service area from SDLA under water CCN No. 12479. On December 19, 2022, the Applicants filed an amended application, in which Johnson County SUD also seeks approval to amend its CCN for uncertificated service area separate from the area to be transferred in the STM.

On April 4, 2024, the administrative law judge filed Order No. 14, directing the Applicants and the Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) (collectively, the Parties) to file a proposed notice of approval, including findings of fact, conclusions of law, and ordering paragraphs by May 28, 2024. Therefore, this pleading is timely filed.

#### I. JOINT SUPPLEMENTAL MOTION TO ADMIT EVIDENCE

The Parties respectfully request that the following items be admitted into evidence:

- Executed transactional documents and executed affidavit of customer deposits filed on March 14, 2024 (Interchange Item No. 37);
- Commission Staff's recommendation on sufficiency of closing documents and proposed procedural schedule filed on April 1, 2024 (Interchange Item No. 39);
- 3. Johnson County SUD's executed consent form filed on April 30, 2024 (Interchange

Item No. 42);

4. SDLA's executed consent form filed on May 3, 2024 (Interchange Item No. 43);

and

5. The final map and certificate attached to this motion.

> П. JOINT PROPOSED NOTICE OF APPROVAL

The Parties have agreed on the attached Joint Proposed Notice of Approval. The Parties

respectfully request that the Commission adopt the jointly proposed findings of fact, conclusions

of law, and ordering paragraphs and approve the application.

Ш. CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, the Parties respectfully request that the Commission grant

the Joint Supplemental Motion to Admit Evidence and adopt the attached Joint Proposed Notice

of Approval.

Dated: May 28, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS LEGAL DIVISION

Marisa Lopez Wagley

Division Director

lan Groetsch

Managing Attorney

/s/ Scott Miles

Scott Miles

State Bar No. 24098103

1701 N. Congress Avenue

P.O. Box 13326

Austin, Texas 78711-3326

(512) 936-7228

(512) 936-7268 (facsimile)

Scott.Miles@puc.texas.gov

#### **DOCKET NO. 53922**

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, notice of the filing of this document will be provided to all parties of record via electronic mail on May 28, 2024, in accordance with the Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.

/s/ Scott Miles Scott Miles

#### **DOCKET NO. 53922**

| APPLICATION OF SKYLINE DRIVE    | § | PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION WATER    | § |                           |
| SYSTEM AND JOHNSON COUNTY       | § | OF TEXAS                  |
| SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT FOR    | § |                           |
| SALE, TRANSFER OR MERGER OF     | § |                           |
| FACILITIES AND TO AMEND JOHNSON | § |                           |
| COUNTY SPECIAL UTILITY          | § |                           |
| DISTRICT'S WATER CERTIFICATE OF | § |                           |
| CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY IN    | § |                           |
| JOHNSON COUNTY                  | Ş |                           |

#### JOINT PROPOSED NOTICE OF APPROVAL

This Notice of Approval addresses the application of Skyline Drive Landowners Association (SDLA) and Johnson County Special Utility District (Johnson County SUD) for approval of the sale, transfer, or merger of facilities and certificate rights in Johnson County. The Commission approves the following: (1) the sale and transfer of all facilities and water service area held by SDLA under certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) number 12479 to Johnson County SUD; (2) the amendment of Johnson County SUD's CCN number 10081 to include all facilities and service area previously held by SDLA under CCN number 12479; (3) the cancellation of SDLA's water CCN number 12479; and (4) the amendment of Johnson County SUD's CCN number 10081 to add 26.8 acres of uncertificated area, to the extent provided in this Notice of Approval.

#### I. Findings of Fact

The Commission makes the following findings of fact:

#### <u>Applicant</u>

- 1. SDLA is a Texas property owners' association.
- SDLA holds CCN number 12479 which obligates it to provide retail water service in its certificated service area in Johnson County.
- 3. SDLA owns a public water system registered with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) under public water system identification number 1260060.
- 4. Johnson County SUD is a special utility district operating under chapter 65 of the Texas Water Code (TWC).

- 5. Johnson County SUD holds CCN number 10081 which obligates it to provide retail water service in its certificated service area in Johnson County.
- Johnson County SUD owns a public water system registered with the TCEQ under public water system identification number 1260018.

#### **Application**

- 7. On August 1, 2022, SDLA and Johnson County SUD filed the application at issue.
- 8. The applicants filed supplemental information on August 2 and December 19, 2022 and February 22 and 28, 2023.
- 9. In the application, as supplemented, the applicants seek approval of the following:
  - a. the sale and transfer to Johnson County SUD of all of SDLA's facilities and service areas held under CCN number 12479;
  - the amendment of Johnson County SUD's CCN number 10081 to include the facilities and service area previously included in SDLA's CCN number 12479;
  - c. and the cancellation of SDLA's water CCN number 12479; and
  - d. the amendment of Johnson County SUD's CCN number 10081 to add 26.8 acres of uncertificated area.
- 10. The requested area includes the following:
  - a. 61.7 acres of area that is singly certificated under SDLA's CCN number 12479;
  - b. 26.8 acres of uncertificated area immediately adjacent to SDLA's existing certificated service area; and
  - c. 34 customer connections.
- 11. The requested area is located approximately 4.7 miles northeast of downtown Godley, Texas, and is generally bounded on the north by the intersection of First Street and Texas Street; on the east by County Road 915B; on the south by County Road 915; and on the west by Clearview Drive.
- 12. In Order No. 4 filed on January 24, 2023, the administrative law judge (ALJ) found the application administratively complete.

#### Notice

- On February 22, 2023, Johnson County SUD filed the affidavit of Pete Kampfer, general manager of Johnson County SUD, attesting that notice was provided to customers, cities, districts, neighboring retail public utilities, county offices, and affected parties on January 31, 2023.
- 14. On February 22, 2023, Johnson County SUD filed a publisher's affidavit attesting to the publication of notice in the *Cleburne Times Review*, a newspaper of general circulation in Johnson County, on February 4 and 11, 2023.
- 15. In Order No. 5 filed on March 7, 2023, the ALJ found the notice sufficient.
- 16. On June 16, 2023, Johnson County SUD filed proof that there are no owners of a tract of land that is at least 25 acres and is wholly or partially included in the requested area.
- 17. In Order No. 9 filed on July 17, 2023, the ALJ found the supplemental notice sufficient.

#### Evidentiary Record

18. In Order No. 10 filed on August 2, 2024, the ALJ admitted the following evidence into the record of this proceeding: (a) The application and all attachments filed on August 1, 2022; (b) the applicants' supplemental information to the application filed on August 1, 2022; (c) the applicants' amended application filed on December 19, 2022; (d) Commission Staff's recommendation on administrative completeness, proposed notice, and proposed procedural schedule and request to restyle the docket filed on January 23, 2023; (e) the applicants' proof of notice and supporting documentation filed on February 22, 2023; (f) the applicants' supplemental information to the application filed on February 28, 2023; (g) Commission Staff's recommendation on sufficiency of notice and proposed procedural schedule filed on March 6, 2023; (h) Commission Staff's final recommendation on approval of the sale filed on April 17, 2023; (i) the parties' joint motion to admit evidence and joint proposed order approving the sale and allowing the transaction to proceed and approving the CCN amendment filed on April 28, 2023; (j) the applicants' response to Order No. 7 filed on May 30, 2023; (k) Commission Staff's clarification in response to Order No. 7 filed on May 30, 2023; (1) the applicants' supplemental proof of notice and supporting documentation filed on June 16, 2023; and (m) Commission Staff's recommendation on sufficiency of supplemental notice filed on July 5, 2023.

19. In Order No. \_\_\_\_ filed on \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2024, the ALJ admitted the following additional evidence into the record: (a) executed transactional documents and executed affidavit of customer deposits filed on March 14, 2024; (b) Commission Staff's recommendation on sufficiency of closing documents and proposed procedural schedule filed on April 1, 2024; (c) Johnson County SUD's executed consent form filed on April 30, 2024; (d) SDLA's executed consent form filed on May 3, 2024; and (e) the final map and certificate attached to the parties' joint supplemental motion to admit evidence and proposed notice of approval.

#### Sale

- 20. In Order No. 12 filed on September 18, 2023, the ALJ approved the sale and transaction to proceed and required the applicants to file proof that the transaction had closed and customer deposits, if any, had been addressed.
- 21. On March 14, 2024, the applicants filed proof that the transaction had closed and confirmed that there were no outstanding customer deposits that needed to be addressed.
- 22. In Order No. 14, the ALJ found the closing documentation sufficient.

#### Johnson County SUD's Compliance History

- 23. The Commission's complaint records, which date back to 2017, show 30 complaints against Johnson County SUD. All complaints have been reviewed and closed by the Commission's Consumer Protection Division.
- 24. Johnson County SUD has not been under an enforcement action by the Commission, TCEQ, Texas Health and Human Services, the Office of the Texas Attorney General, or the United States Environmental Protection Agency in the past five years for noncompliance with rules, orders, or state statutes.
- Johnson County SUD does not have a history of continuing mismanagement or misuse of revenues as a utility provider.
- 26. Johnson County SUD demonstrated a compliance history that is adequate for approval of the proposed transaction.

#### Adequacy of Existing Service

- 27. There are currently 34 connections in the requested area that are being served by SDLA through public water system identification number 1260060 and such service has been continuous and adequate.
- 28. The last TCEQ compliance investigation of SDLA's public water system was on October 22, 2020.
- 29. SDLA has violations listed in the TCEQ database that have since been resolved.
- 30. The Commission's complaint records, which date back to 2017, show no complaints against SDLA.
- 31. Capital improvements are necessary for Johnson County SUD to continue providing continuous and adequate service to the requested area.
- 32. There is no evidence in the record that SDLA has failed to comply with any Commission or TCEQ order.

#### Need for Additional Service

- 33. There are 34 customer connections in the requested area that are receiving service from SDLA and have an ongoing need for service.
- 34. This requested area includes uncertificated area with existing customers served by SDLA.
- 35. There is no evidence in the record indicating a need for additional service.

#### Effect of Approving the Transaction Granting the Amendment

- 36. Johnson County SUD will be the sole certificated water utility for the requested area.
- 37. Johnson County SUD will be required to provide continuous and adequate water service to current and future customers in the requested area.
- 38. There will be no effect on landowners as the requested area is currently certificated or receiving service by SDLA.
- 39. All retail public utilities in the proximate area were provided notice of the transaction proposed in the application, and no protests, adverse comments, or motions to intervene were filed by any adjacent retail public utility.

#### Ability to Serve: Managerial and Technical

- 40. Johnson County SUD owns and operates public water system identification number 1260018, which is registered with the TCEQ.
- 41. Johnson County SUD employs TCEQ-licensed operators who will be responsible for operating the public water system being transferred.
- 42. Johnson County SUD has the managerial and technical capability to provide continuous and adequate service to the requested area.

#### Feasibility of Obtaining Service from Other Utilities

- 43. SDLA is currently serving existing customers in the requested area with existing facilities and service has been continuous and adequate.
- 44. Johnson County SUD is an adjacent retail public utility.
- 45. Texas Water Utilities, LP, the only other retail public utility in the proximate area, did not file a protest, adverse comment, or motion to intervene in this proceeding.
- 46. It is not feasible to obtain service from an adjacent retail public utility.

#### Regionalization or Consolidation

- 47. It will not be necessary for Johnson County SUD to construct a physically separate water system to serve the requested area.
- 48. Because the requested area will not require construction of a physically separate water system, consideration of regionalization or consolidation with another retail public utility is not required.

#### Ability to Serve: Financial Ability and Stability

- 49. Johnson County SUD has a debt-to-equity ratio of less than one, satisfying the leverage test.
- 50. Johnson County SUD projects that there are no operations and maintenance shortages to cover during the first year five years of operations after approval of the transaction and CCN amendment. Therefore, Johnson County SUD satisfied the operations test.
- 51. Johnson County SUD submitted documents indicating it possesses the funds necessary for the purchase of SDLA's water system and for the construction of the capital improvements

- necessary for Johnson County SUD to continue providing continuous and adequate service to existing customers.
- 52. Johnson County SUD filed a capital improvements plan that included a budget and an estimated timeline for construction of all facilities necessary to provide service to the requested area keyed to a map showing where such facilities will be located.
- 53. Johnson County SUD has demonstrated that it has the financial capability and stability to pay for the facilities necessary to provide continuous and adequate service.

#### Financial Assurance

54. There is no need to require Johnson County SUD to provide a bond or other financial assurance to ensure continuous and adequate service.

#### Environmental Integrity and Effect on the Land

55. The effect on environmental integrity and the land will be minimal and temporary as facilities are constructed for Johnson County SUD to continue providing continuous and adequate service to the requested area.

#### Improvement in Service or Lowering of Cost to Consumers

- SUD's management.
- 57. No lowering of cost to consumers will result from approving the transaction to proceed.

#### Map and Certificate

- 58. On April 29, 2024, Commission Staff emailed to Johnson County SUD and SDLA the final proposed map and certificate related to this docket.
- 59. On April 30, 2024, Johnson County SUD filed its consent form concurring with the proposed final map and certificate.
- 60. On May 3, 2024, SDLA filed its consent form concurring with the proposed final map.
- On May 28, 2024, the final map and certificate were provided as attachments to the parties' joint supplemental motion to admit evidence and proposed notice of approval.

#### **Informal Disposition**

- 62. More than 15 days have passed since the completion of notice provided in this docket
- 63. No person filed a protest or motion to intervene.
- 64. Johnson County SUD, SDLA, and Commission Staff are the only parties to this proceeding.
- 65. No party requested a hearing and no hearing is needed.
- 66. Commission Staff recommended approval of the application.
- 67. The decision is not adverse to any party.

#### II. Conclusions of Law

The Commission makes the following conclusions of law:

- 1. The Commission has authority over this proceeding under TWC §§ 13.041, 13.241, 13.242, 13.244, 13.246, 13.251, and 13.301.
- Johnson County SUD and SDLA are retail public utilities as defined by TWC § 13.002(19) and 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 24.3(31).
- 3. Notice of the application was provided in compliance with TWC §§ 13.246(a) and 13.301(a)(2) and 16 TAC § 24.239(a) through (c).<sup>1</sup>
- 4. The application meets the requirements of TWC § 13.244 and 16 TAC §§ 24.227 and 24.233.
- 5. The Commission processed this application as required by the TWC, Administrative Procedure Act,<sup>2</sup> and Commission rules.
- Johnson County SUD and SDLA have complied with the requirements of 16 TAC § 24.239(k) and (/) with respect to customer deposits.
- 7. Johnson County SUD and SDLA completed the sale and transfer within the time required by 16 TAC § 24.239(m).

 $<sup>^1\,</sup>$  After this application was filed, 16 TAC § 24.239 was amended, effective March 29,2023. Accordingly, all references and citations to 16 TAC § 24.239 in this Notice of Approval are made to the version in effect at the time the application was filed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Tex, Gov't Code §§ 2001,001-,903,

- 8. After consideration of the factors in TWC § 13.246(c), Johnson County SUD demonstrated that it is capable of rendering continuous and adequate service to every customer in the requested area, as required by TWC § 13.251.
- 9. Johnson County SUD demonstrated adequate financial, managerial, and technical capability for providing adequate and continuous service to the requested area as required by TWC §§ 13.241(a) and 13.301(b).
- 10. Regionalization and consolidation concerns under TWC § 13.241(d) do not apply in this proceeding because construction of a physically separate water system is not required.
- 11. It is not necessary for Johnson County SUD to provide bond or other financial assurance under TWC §§ 13.246(d) and 13.301(c).
- 12. Johnson County SUD provided a capital improvements plan under TWC § 13.244(d)(3) and 16 TAC § 24.233(a)(6).
- 13. The applicants demonstrated that the sale and transfer of SDLA's facilities and service area under CCN number 12479 to Johnson County SUD will serve the public interest and is necessary for the continued service, accommodation, convenience, or safety of the public, as required by TWC §§ 13.246(b) and 13.301(d) and (e).
- 14. Under TWC § 13.257(r) and (s), Johnson County SUD must record a certified copy of its approved map and certificate, along with a boundary description of its service area, in the real property records of Johnson County within 31 days of receiving this Notice of Approval and submit to the Commission evidence of the recording.
- 15. The requirements for informal disposition under 16 TAC § 22.35 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 orders:

- The Commission approves the sale and transfer of facilities, customers, and service area held under SDLA's CCN number 12479 to Johnson County SUD, to the extent provided in this Notice of Approval.
- 2. The Commission cancels SDLA's CCN number 12479.

- 3. The Commission amends Johnson County SUD's CCN number 10081 to include the facilities, customers, and 67.1 acres of certificated service area previously included in SDLA's CCN number 12479, as well as 26.8 acres of uncertificated area, as described in this Notice of Approval and shown on the attached map.
- 4. The Commission approves the map attached to this Notice of Approval.
- 5. The Commission issues the certificate attached to this Notice of Approval.
- 6. Johnson County SUD must provide service to every customer or applicant for service within the approved area under CCN number 10081 that requests service and meets the terms of Johnson County SUD's water service policies, and such service must be continuous and adequate.
- Johnson County SUD must comply with the recording requirements in TWC § 13.257(r) and (s) for the area in Johnson County affected by the application and must submit to the Commission evidence of the recording no later than 45 days after the date of this Notice of Approval.
- 8. The Commission denies all other motions and any other requests for general or specific relief, if not expressly granted.

| Signed at Austin, Texas | day of           | 2024.               |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
|                         | PUBLIC UTILITY O | COMMISSION OF TEXAS |
|                         | JEFFREY J. HUHN  |                     |

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

#### PUCT Docket No. 53922 Johnson County SUD Portion of Water CCN No. 10081

Transfer all of Skyline Drive Landowners Assocation, CCN No. 12479 and Amend CCN No. 10081 in Johnson County





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

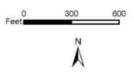
#### Water CCN

///

10081 - Johnson County SUD



12983 - Texas Water Utilities LP



Map by: Komal Patel Date: April 16, 2024 Project: 53922JohnsonSUD.mxd



# Public Utility Commission of Texas

By These Presents Be It Known To All That

## **Johnson County Special Utility District**

having obtained 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, Johnson County Special Utility District, is entitled to this

### Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 10081

to provide continuous and adequate water utility service to that service area or those service areas in Ellis, Hill, Johnson, and Tarrant Counties as by final Order or Orders duly entered by this Commission, which Order or Orders resulting from Docket No. 53922 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 Johnson County Special Utility District, to provide such utility service in accordance with the laws of this State and 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.