



Webb County, Texas  
State Legislative Agenda 2015  
84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature

**NATURAL RESOURCES: Mineral Use of Subdivided Land (Ch. 92, Natural Resources)**

***Proposal***

Amend the applicability provisions of Chapter 92, Natural Resources Code that includes Webb County as an eligible county area so that the county's real property surface owners can petition for the creation of "qualified subdivisions" under said provisions for the proper and orderly development of both mineral and land resources in Webb County, Texas.

***Background***

As promulgated by Chapter 92, Natural Resources (N.R.), surface property owners can petition the Railroad Commission for approval of a "qualified subdivision" which establishes designated "operation sites" for the exploration and production of minerals which ensures full and efficient utilization and development of both mineral and land resources. However, only surface property owners of subdivision developments located in a county having a population in excess of 400,000, or in a county having a population in excess of 140,000 that borders a county having a population in excess of 400,000 or located on a barrier island can avail themselves of the orderly development authorized by the provisions of Chapter 92, N.R.

The population limits imposed by Chapter 92, N.R., do not take into consideration those counties that may not meet the population thresholds but are experiencing significant oil or gas production activities – such as Webb County with the Eagle Ford Shale production. Local land developers have become hesitant in further developing land for residential, commercial and industrial uses as a result of the uncertainties of how future mineral production activities will affect them. Such hesitations in land development opportunities negatively impact the growth of property tax revenues of the state and local governments and do not support the full exploitation of all land resources of the State of Texas.

Webb County hereby urges legislative support for an amendment to the applicability provisions of Chapter 92, N.R. that will result in Webb County being an eligible county for surface property owners to create "qualified subdivisions" that will ensure the proper and orderly development of both mineral and land resources in Webb County, Texas.

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