



## Legislation Text

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**Consider recommendation from the Permits/Enforcement Committee to approve a conversion of base irrigation groundwater owned by Holland & Lee Properties, LLC, based on a change in land use.**

### RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move the board adopt a Final Order Granting Application to Convert Base Irrigation Groundwater for Initial Regular Permit No. P107-905 (ME00305) based on changes in land use submitted by Holland & Lee Properties, LLC.

### SUMMARY:

The purpose of this agenda item is for the board to consider a Permits/Enforcement Committee recommendation to approve an Application to Convert Base Irrigation Groundwater to unrestricted irrigation groundwater based on a change in land use. Generally, irrigation Initial Regular Permit (IRP) holders cannot permanently change the place of use or the purpose of use for base irrigation groundwater (BIG) withdrawal rights. However, §711.342 of the EAA Rules allows IRP holders to convert BIG withdrawal rights to unrestricted irrigation groundwater (UIG) withdrawal rights if certain conditions are met under the following two scenarios:

**Water Conservation:** IRP holders must submit an application that demonstrates the conservation of water after the installation of water conservation equipment, or

**Change in Land Use:** IRP holders must submit an application to the EAA consistent with §711.342 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Rules, demonstrating either sufficient physical development of the land or evidence that the land is no longer practicable to farm.

The IRP holder applying to convert BIG withdrawal rights must also provide supporting documentation. In addition to the information provided by the applicant, EAA staff reviews county records and performs a site inspection to verify the BIG withdrawal rights conversion application. In the application presented for consideration, these requirements have been met. Following is a summary of the BIG conversion application based on a change in land use presented for consideration.

### **P107-905 (ME00305) Holland & Lee Properties, LLC.**

IRP No. P107-905 (ME00305), originally approved by the board on February 9, 2016, is currently permitted for 80.765 acre-feet of BIG withdrawal rights.

On September 2, 2016, the applicant filed an Application to Convert Base Irrigation Groundwater for

IRP No. P107-905 (ME00305) with the EAA. The applicant requested to convert all 80.765 acre-feet of BIG withdrawal rights to unrestricted irrigation groundwater withdrawal rights due to a change in land use based on evidence that the land is no longer practicable to farm. EAA staff reviewed this application and determined that the BIG conversion application for 80.765 acre-feet meets the requirements of §711.342 of the EAA Rules. The historically irrigated land that is the subject of the Application is no longer practicable to farm due to the following limitations: the land is located within the City of Hondo's corporate city limits; the land was rezoned as High Industrial, and does not allow agriculture as a permitted use for the land; and the land that is the subject of the application has not been irrigated for more than five years. The technical summary and map showing the place of use are attached to this item.

At the October 25 meeting, the Permits/Enforcement Committee voted to recommend the board adopt a Final Order granting the Application to Convert Base Irrigation Groundwater for IRP No. P107-905 (ME00305) to convert 80.765 acre-feet of BIG withdrawal rights to UIG withdrawal rights. The draft Final Order prepared by General Counsel is also attached to this item.

#### M/WBE PARTICIPATION:

This agenda item does not involve the procurement of goods or services by the EAA and, therefore, this section is not applicable.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE:

This agenda item does not relate to a specific goal or action step within the Strategic Plan, but supports the general EAA mission.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

None.