

COUNTY OF FREESTONE

Commissioners Court
Linda K. Grant, County Judge
Andy Bonner, Precinct No. 1
Will McSwane, Precinct No. 2
Lloyd Lane, Precinct No. 3
Clyde Ridge Jr., Precinct No. 4



County Courthouse
Commissioners Courtroom
118 E. Commerce, Rm. 203
Fairfield, Texas 75840
903/389-3335 Phone
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June 21, 2023


Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's agenda to use eminent domain to save Fairfield Lake State Park is an abuse of power and government overreach. To use this action will be an infringement on private property rights. TPWD had ample notification and time to purchase this land before this property was listed for sale, but blatantly and irresponsibly failed to act.


Freestone County and Fairfield ISD stand to gain approximately 20 million dollars in tax revenue annually from this development. One third of this amount is more than half of the total tax dollars Freestone County receives now from current property owners. The citizens of Freestone County lost a large portion of our tax base when the power plant and coal mine closed. For TPWD to steal an opportunity for us to replace that tax base would be selfish.


We are extremely disappointed in your actions and other state elected officials' regarding this matter. As Commissioners of Freestone County, it is our duty to be good stewards of the money received from taxpayers and look to the future for what is best for the citizens of Freestone County. We have no doubt that this development will benefit Freestone County and local businesses for years to come and we implore the State of Texas not to proceed with eminent domain to seize this property.


The elected Commissioners of Freestone County do not like the idea of appointed Commissioners who were derelict of their duty to make decisions which will affect the taxpayers of Freestone County.

We ask you to stop this now!


Andy Bonner, Commissioner
Precinct No. 1


Lloyd Lane, Commissioner
Precinct No. 3


Will McSwane, Commissioner
Precinct No. 2


Clyde Ridge, Commissioner
Precinct No. 4

Freestone County began addressing the Park issue in 2019. We have not been in favor of Eminent Domain but have hoped the State and the buyer could reach an agreement. That has not happened. The tax revenue that this project promises will be a great benefit to the citizens of our county. I respect the Commissioners and their stand on this issue so I support this letter.


Linda K. Grant, County Judge