



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SJRA's Statement on Potential Oil & Gas Leasing by Forest Service

Conroe, Texas — The San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) was recently informed by stakeholders around Lake Conroe about an upcoming study being conducted by the USDA Forest Service. They will be determining what (if any) of their lands could be leased for oil and gas exploration. To support this decision they are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which could include special conditions that groups leasing land must abide by should they move forward with this program.

SJRA as an adjacent landowner is certainly a stakeholder in this process. SJRA staff attended a public meeting in Willis, Texas covering this topic, and has since provided a response as part of Forest Service's request for public comment. During the public meeting, Forest Service personnel stated that just because leasing is made available does not mean companies will want to develop any resources that may be present.

SJRA is very interested in the potential impacts to water quality that may result from this program and is interested in learning what additional water sampling will be implemented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management to monitor for water quality changes from oil and gas activities. This is a heavily regulated industry with severe penalties associated with non-compliance. According to the Forest Service, the EIS is expected in the winter of 2019 with the final EIS delivered fall 2020. This schedule is suspected to shift since the comment period has been extended to November 29, 2019.

For more information about this program, or to leave a public comment, interested parties can go to the following websites:

[Federal Register - NFGT EIS Statement](#)

[USDA Forest Service Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis](#)

One of the major river authorities in Texas, SJRA's mission is to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin. Covering all or part of seven counties, the organization's jurisdiction includes the entire San Jacinto River watershed, excluding Harris County. For additional information on SJRA visit our website at www.sjra.net, like SJRA on Facebook [@SanJacintoRiverAuthority](#), follow us on Twitter [@SJRA_1937](#), or Instagram [@SanJacintoRiverAuthoritySJRA](#).

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