



NEWS RELEASE

July 25, 2023

Commissioners Table Decision on ESD Petition

Formal consent from San Marcos, Staples and Mustang Ridge Desired Before Decision Goes to Voters

City leaders from Lockhart, Luling and Martindale verbally expressed their support for the proposed creation of Emergency Services District No. 5, which would provide emergency services that include ambulatory services throughout Caldwell County, during a public hearing held during the Tuesday, July 25 meeting of Caldwell County Commissioners Court.

The county's ambulance services contract with Ascension is set to terminate midnight on September 30. Creating a county-wide ESD would allow the new entity to shoulder the burden by levying a 10-cent tax per \$100 property valuation tax to make a steady stream of revenue available to provide emergency services.

Lockhart, Luling, Martindale and Uhland have each signed resolutions consenting to the creation of the ESD, and Lockhart Mayor Lew White, Luling Mayor CJ Watts and City Manager Mark Mayo and Martindale Mayor Katherine Glaze each vocalized their support during Tuesday's commissioners court meeting.

The City of Luling has maintained control of its own emergency medical services for nearly four years, but Mayo said the creation of the ESD would prevent the city from continuing to suffer financial losses incurred by responding to medical calls beyond the city limits.

Commissioners on Tuesday tabled the order to submit the ESD to voters to give the cities of San Marcos, Staples and Mustang Ridge time to express formal consent to the creation of the ESD. The county desires formal approval and participation from the cities of Lockhart, Martindale, Uhland, Luling, San Marcos, Staples and Mustang Ridge.

The order is expected to return for consideration at the August 8 regular meeting.

The Texas Health and Safety Code authorizes qualified voters who own taxable real property to petition the court to order an election creating an ESD that includes their property. More than 100 registered voters have signed a petition in support of ESD 5. The petition was created and circulated by Dorothy Driver of Dale and Fiona Kanemeier of Lockhart.

