



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

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Senator César J. Blanco Announces Major Funding to Plug Leaking Water Wells in West Texas

Austin, Texas – Today, Senator César J. Blanco announced that \$9.4 million has been secured in the state budget for the Leaking Water Wells Fund, administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Senator César J. Blanco sponsored HB4256 during the 88th Legislative Session to create the Leaking Water Well Program.

The most notorious case is Lake Boehmer in Pecos County, where an abandoned water well has created a lake that covers over 60 acres, is three times saltier than the ocean, and has sulfate levels 25 times higher than safe drinking water. TxDOT had to spend \$30 million in Pecos County to move a State Highway due to sinking caused by Lake Boehmer.

Senator César J. Blanco issued the following statement:

“This funding is a critical step forward for West Texas. For years, abandoned and leaking wells, like the one that created Lake Boehmer, have posed a serious threat to our land, our water, and the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers who call this region home. What started as an abandoned well in Pecos County has grown into a 60-acre environmental hazard, eroding the ground beneath us and costing taxpayers tens of millions.

“I was proud to help create the Leaking Water Well Program last session to give West Texans the tools to clean up these hazards and prevent the next crisis before it starts. With this new funding, we can keep plugging dangerous wells, protecting the land and water that sustain West Texas communities and fuel our state's future.”

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