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<b>SENATE</b>		<b>DISTRICT 11</b>		<b>SENATE</b>		<b>GOVERNOR</b>		<b>DISTRICT 23</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>
Sestak (D)	0%	Harmer (R)	0%	Giannoulis (D)	0%	Scott (R)	0%	Canseco (R)	0%	HOUSE 218 Needed for Majority		
Toomey (R)	0%	McNerney* (D)	0%	Kirk (R)	0%	Sink (D)	0%	Rodriguez* (D)	0%	DEM	REP	
0% Precincts Reporting		0% Precincts Reporting * INCUMBENT		0% Precincts Reporting		0% Precincts Reporting		0% Precincts Reporting * INCUMBENT		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

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## Pickens Wants Texas Agency to Nix Water Plan

Pickens sues Texas water agency, claims plans would decrease value of Panhandle water rights

By **BETSY BLANEY** Associated Press Writer

The Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas April 20, 2010 (AP)

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Billionaire T. Boone Pickens wants a court to derail state approval of a water management plan that he claims would take \$10 million off the value of his groundwater rights in the Texas Panhandle.

Pickens' attorney, Marty Jones, said Tuesday that the oilman filed a lawsuit against the Texas Water Development Board last month.

The suit came after the board endorsed a plan that Pickens claims will take as many as 18,000 acre feet of water a year from the Ogallala Aquifer under land belonging to him and another rancher. One acre foot equals about 326,000 gallons.

The lawsuit says the combined plans of three groundwater conservation districts in the Panhandle management area will devalue Mesa Water LP's rights and those of a nearby rancher.

Pickens, who has been trying for years to sell water from the Panhandle to thirsty cities to the south, wants a Travis County court to declare the plan unreasonable. That would force the districts to revise their proposals.

The Texas Attorney General's Office, which is representing the water board, filed a response to Pickens' suit denying each claim.

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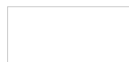
Lawmakers told each conservation district — Texas has about 95 of them — to establish by Sept. 1 their own "desired future conditions."

According to Texas' water code, "the districts may establish different desired future conditions for each aquifer, subdivision of an aquifer, or geologic strata located in whole or in part within the boundaries of the management area." Or they may use "each geographic area overlying an aquifer in whole or in part or subdivision of an aquifer within the boundaries of the management area."

But "it doesn't define different geographic areas," Jones said.

"We want to ensure equitable treatment for all the people who have water rights in the same aquifer," Jones said. "Boone has never opposed regulation of groundwater. In fact, it protects his interests today."

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