
GRAND SALINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 13, 2025

Dear Region D Board Members,

I am Micah Lewis, Superintendent of Grand Saline Independent School District, speaking on behalf of our School and Board of Trustees about the City of Canton's desire to take land from landowners inside our District boundaries.

GSISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved proposing a bond election for a new Middle School to our constituents that was held on May 3, 2025. Our constituents then overwhelmingly approved their taxes being raised at that May 3rd election to build a new school for the children of Grand Saline. As we planned for the building site, we approached two landowners to see if they were willing to sell land to GSISD for the new campus. Both said no, expressing their desire to keep the land in their family. We immediately removed those possible locations from our consideration. We have the same Eminent Domain authority as the City of Canton. I applaud our Board of Trustees for not taking land from our constituents and finding an alternate strategy. The City of Grand Saline has similar water needs, similar population, and the exact same Eminent Domain authority as Canton and our school district. The City of Grand Saline and the Grand Saline Independent School District will not try to seize our own people's land, or Canton's land for that matter. If we are not in favor of taking our own people's land, we certainly are not in favor of Canton taking our land.

The City of Grand Saline and other cities throughout Van Zandt County have rescinded a 2010 resolution supporting the City of Canton exploring water sources. Canton has erroneously used that since rescinded resolution as Grand Saline and other cities' approval of Saline Creek residents' land being taken. It was not the other cities' intent for Saline Creek residents to be negatively impacted, thus causing the recent reversals.

The list of opposition to Canton's plan is long including Senator Bob Hall, Representative Brent Money, Van Zandt County Judge Andy Reese, Van Zandt County Commissioner Court, City of Grand Saline, Grand Saline ISD, and the most important are the landowners of Grand Saline Creek. Again, I urge you to remove the proposed alternate Grand Saline Creek Reservoir from the 2026 Regional Water Plan and any future plans. I also ask that the Region D Board petition the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality against issuing the water rights of Grand Saline Creek to the City of Canton.

Sincerely,

Micah Lewis
Superintendent
Grand Saline ISD