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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Midland Co. clarifies role in water service

Leaders look to combat misinformation amid ongoing shortage concerns

MIDLAND COUNTY, Texas - Recent reports and social media attention have raised concerns about water quality and service interruptions in the Vander Ranch subdivision, located in Midland County but outside the Midland city limits. Midland County officials understand these concerns and want to set the record straight about jurisdiction, responsibility, and ongoing efforts.

✓ **FACT: Midland County Does Not Provide Water Services**

- County governments in Texas (and across the U.S.) do not provide municipal water services to residents living outside city limits.
- If you live in a city, you typically receive city-provided utilities. If you live in the county, you must either:
 - Drill a private well, or
 - Receive water through a for-profit water provider.

✓ **FACT: Vander Ranch Is Served by a Private Water Provider**

- The Vander Ranch subdivision is supplied by Park Water, a private company.
- Park Water has experienced service interruptions, boil water notices, and even quality concerns in recent years.
- While they have had past violations, Park Water is currently operating legally as public water system, as required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).



✓ **FACT: The County Has Actively Worked Within Its Legal Limits**

- Midland County officials do not have the authority to take over or manage private water systems.
- However, the County has:
 - Held regular meetings with TCEQ, the Public Utility Commission (PUC), Midland County Utility District (MCUD), Park Water, and the Vander Ranch developers.
 - Supported efforts by MCUD to improve regional water infrastructure.

✓ **FACT: MCUD Is NOT a County Entity**

- MCUD (Midland County Utility District) is a separate, independent taxing authority, established by state statute and governed by the PUC, not Midland County.
- In Spring 2025, an MCUD bond that would have funded water infrastructure projects (including wells, pipelines, and reservoirs) failed to pass.
- If passed, it would have empowered MCUD to support systems like Park Water and improve county-wide water access.

✓ **FACT: Park Water Has Made Improvements**

- TCEQ has informed the county Park Water has recently completed two new wells, which have started to reduce service disruptions in Vander Ranch.

✓ **FACT: Public Concerns Are Heard – But Must Be Directed Properly**

- Some recent public criticism has come from individuals who live in the City, not Greenwood or Vander Ranch.
- While public comment at Commissioners Court is welcomed, we are not aware of Vander Ranch residents having spoken at these meetings.
- The County encourages all affected residents to:
 - Attend public meetings.
 - Communicate directly with Park Water, MCUD, or the PUC.
 - Stay informed on any upcoming bond proposals that could support long-term solutions.

“We understand that water is a vital issue, and we share the concerns of our residents. Midland County is not sitting idle,” said County Judge Terry Johnson. “We have worked consistently and legally within our authority to support solutions. We remain committed to transparency, collaboration, and advocating for the health and safety of all Midland County residents.”

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