

COMMONLY USED TERMS

The world of public government concerning water and wastewater has many words and acronyms that can be unfamiliar to the average resident. This section will provide many of the commonly used terms, words, and acronyms to ensure that everyone has a common understanding of their meaning.

DEFINITIONS:

1. **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):** The TCEQ is the Texas State regulatory agency in charge of regulating districts, such as HCWCID 99, and must approve every new bond issue and the projects financed by bonds. The TCEQ also regulates the District *water* and *wastewater* facilities.
2. **Water Control & Improvement District:** A Texas government agency or “special purpose district” created and regulated by the TCEQ with powers to control supply water, wastewater, drainage, recreation, irrigation, and other functions. Unlike an HOA, districts have the authority to levy taxes, eminent domain powers, police powers, and others. For our purposes, “District” and “HCWCID 99” will refer to your Water Control & Improvement District.
3. **Board of Directors:** The elected officials empowered to make decisions and serve as the authorized representatives of districts and district residents.
4. **Consultants:** The individuals contracted by the District Board of Directors for professional services in order to effectively manage specific aspects of district management. Some common examples include:
 - a. **Attorney:** Legal counsel to the districts for general legal issues, regulatory issues with TCEQ, and financing with bonds.
 - b. **Engineer:** Creates, designs, manages, and approve construction projects and anticipates current and future needs for District infrastructure.
 - c. **Operator:** Manages the day-to-day operations of facilities, lines, and connections, as well as manages monthly billing & collection for district water accounts.
 - d. **Bookkeeper:** Manages the books and records of district payments and receipts.
 - e. **Tax Assessor/Collector:** Manages the levy, billing and collection of the District’s taxes.
 - f. **Communications:** Acts as an intermediary between the District and the public to ensure clear and concise transparency and accessibility for the District and its constituents, including ensuring all regulated documents are maintained on the District’s website.
 - g. **Financial Advisor:** Provides financial projections and recommendations to assist the District and Board of Directors in the annual tax levy and in planning and issuing bonds

