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THE STATE OF TEXAS V HIDALGO COUNTY WATER CONTROL &
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 18, et al Case Files, 1963-1966

Inventory

Date printed:

THE STATE OF TEXAS, et al
V
HIDALGO COUNTY WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT NO. 18, et al
Case material inventory

Extent: 9.5 linear ft. (23 boxes).

Texas v. Hidalgo County Water Control & Improvement District No. 18., et al - State of Texas v. Hidalgo County Water Control & Improvement District No. 18 et al. (443 S.W.2d 728, Court of Civil Appeals--Corpus Christi 1969) was originally filed in the 93rd District Court, Hidalgo County (Case no. B-20,576) in 1956 by the Texas Attorney General on behalf of the state's Board of Water Engineers and several cities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley to stop 40 water districts and 650 private corporations and individuals from diverting water from the lower Rio Grande River to ensure sufficient water supply for domestic use. Lengthy and complex litigation ensued. In a split-off case, Valmont Plantations v. State (355 S.W. 2d 502 (1962)), the Texas Supreme Court upheld an appeals court ruling that landowners along the Rio Grande did not have riparian water rights under the applicable Spanish and Mexican laws. As a result, the main case finally came to trial before Judge J. H. Starley in 1963, who ruled in 1966 that the river waters would be divided according to a set of weighted priorities. The Texas Supreme Court substantially upheld Starley's rulings in 1970, and shortly thereafter the Water Rights Adjudication Act gave a state watermaster the power to supervise water distribution.

Scope and Content: Volumes I-IV are indexes to 54 volumes of "Statement of Facts" which include oral testimony and exhibits for the district court phase of the litigation. Volumes 1-2, 4-5, and 50-51 of the "Statement of Facts" are lacking.

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