

S U S A N

C O M B S

TEXAS COMPTROLLER *of* PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

P.O. Box 13528 • AUSTIN, TX 78711-3528



March 5, 2014

Jay Lamb  
Superintendent  
Groom Independent School District  
304 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Groom, Texas 79039

Dear Superintendent Lamb:

On Dec. 11, 2013, the Comptroller received the completed application (Application #356) for a limitation on appraised value under the provisions of Tax Code Chapter 313<sup>1</sup>. This application was originally submitted in November 2013 to the Groom Independent School District (the school district) by Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC (the applicant). This letter presents the results of the Comptroller's review of the application:

- 1) under Section 313.025(h) to determine if the property meets the requirements of Section 313.024 for eligibility for a limitation on appraised value under Chapter 313, Subchapter C; and
- 2) under Section 313.025(d), to make a recommendation to the governing body of the school district as to whether the application should be approved or disapproved using the criteria set out by Section 313.026.

The school district is currently classified as a rural school district in Category 3 according to the provisions of Chapter 313. Therefore, the applicant properly applied under the provisions of Subchapter C, applicable to rural school districts. The amount of proposed qualified investment (\$275.8 million) is consistent with the proposed appraised value limitation sought (\$10 million). The property value limitation amount noted in this recommendation is based on property values available at the time of application and may change prior to the execution of any final agreement.

The applicant is an active franchise taxpayer in good standing, as required by Section 313.024(a), and is proposing the construction of a wind power electric generation facility in Carson County, an eligible property use under Section 313.024(b). The Comptroller has determined that the property, as described by the application, meets the requirements of Section 313.024 for eligibility for a limitation on appraised value under Chapter 313, Subchapter C.

After reviewing the application using the criteria listed in Section 313.026, and the information provided by the applicant, the Comptroller's recommendation is that this application under Tax Code Chapter 313 be approved.

Our review of the application assumes the truth and accuracy of the statements in the application and that, if the application is approved, the applicant would perform according to the provisions of the agreement reached with the school district. Our recommendation does not address whether the applicant has complied with all Chapter 313 requirements; the school district is responsible for verifying that all requirements of the statute have been fulfilled. Additionally, Section 313.025 requires the school district to only approve an application if the school district finds that the information in the application is true and

<sup>1</sup> All statutory references are to the Texas Tax Code, unless otherwise noted.

correct, finds that the applicant is eligible for a limitation and determines that granting the application is in the best interest of the school district and this state. As stated above, the Comptroller's recommendation is prepared by generally reviewing the application and supporting documentation in light of the Section 313.026 criteria.

Note that any new building or other improvement existing as of the application review start date of Dec. 11, 2013, or any tangible personal property placed in service prior to that date may not become "Qualified Property" as defined by 313.021(2).

The Comptroller's recommendation is based on the application submitted by the school district and reviewed by the Comptroller. The recommendation may not be used by the school district to support its approval of the property value limitation agreement if the application is modified, the information presented in the application changes, or the limitation agreement does not conform to the application. Additionally, this recommendation is contingent on future compliance with the Chapter 313 and the Texas Administrative Code, with particular reference to the following requirements related to the execution of the agreement:

- 1) The applicant must provide the Comptroller a copy of the proposed limitation on appraised value agreement no later than ten (10) days prior to the meeting scheduled by the school district to consider approving the agreement, so that the Comptroller may review it for compliance with the statutes and the Comptroller's rules as well as consistency with the application;
- 2) The Comptroller must confirm that it received and reviewed the draft agreement and affirm the recommendation made in this letter;
- 3) The school district must approve and execute a limitation agreement that has been reviewed by the Comptroller within a year from the date of this letter; and
- 4) The school district must provide a copy of the signed limitation agreement to the Comptroller within seven (7) days after execution, as required by Section 313.025.

Should you have any questions, please contact Robert Wood, director of Economic Development & Analysis Division, by email at [robert.wood@cpa.state.tx.us](mailto:robert.wood@cpa.state.tx.us) or by phone at 1-800-531-5441, ext. 3-3973, or direct in Austin at 512-463-3973.

Sincerely,



Martin A. Hubert  
Deputy Comptroller

Enclosure

cc: Robert Wood

**Economic Impact for Chapter 313 Project**

Applicant	Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC
Tax Code, 313.024 Eligibility Category	Renewable Energy Electric Generation
School District	Groom ISD
2011-12 Enrollment in School District	132
County	Carson
Total Investment in District	\$275,825,000
Qualified Investment	\$275,825,000
Limitation Amount	\$10,000,000
Number of total jobs committed to by applicant	10
Number of qualifying jobs committed to by applicant	10
Average Weekly Wage of Qualifying Jobs committed to by applicant	\$962
Minimum Weekly Wage Required Tax Code, 313.051(b)	\$885
Minimum Annual Wage committed to by applicant for qualified jobs	\$50,000
Investment per Qualifying Job	\$27,582,500
Estimated 15 year M&O levy without any limit or credit:	\$29,110,371
Estimated gross 15 year M&O tax benefit	\$19,873,670
Estimated 15 year M&O tax benefit ( <i>after</i> deductions for estimated school district revenue protection--but not including any deduction for supplemental payments or extraordinary educational expenses):	\$17,911,721
Tax Credits (estimated - part of total tax benefit in the two lines above - appropriated through Foundation School Program)	\$2,391,665
Net M&O Tax (15 years) After Limitation, Credits and Revenue Protection:	\$11,198,650
Tax benefit as a percentage of what applicant would have paid without value limitation agreement (percentage exempted)	61.5%
Percentage of tax benefit due to the limitation	88.0%
Percentage of tax benefit due to the credit	12.0%

This presents the Comptroller's economic impact evaluation of Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC (the project) applying to Groom Independent School District (the district), as required by Tax Code, 313.026. This evaluation is based on information provided by the applicant and examines the following criteria:

- (1) the recommendations of the comptroller;
- (2) the name of the school district;
- (3) the name of the applicant;
- (4) the general nature of the applicant's investment;
- (5) the relationship between the applicant's industry and the types of qualifying jobs to be created by the applicant to the long-term economic growth plans of this state as described in the strategic plan for economic development submitted by the Texas Strategic Economic Development Planning Commission under Section 481.033, Government Code, as that section existed before February 1, 1999;
- (6) the relative level of the applicant's investment per qualifying job to be created by the applicant;
- (7) the number of qualifying jobs to be created by the applicant;
- (8) the wages, salaries, and benefits to be offered by the applicant to qualifying job holders;
- (9) the ability of the applicant to locate or relocate in another state or another region of this state;
- (10) the impact the project will have on this state and individual local units of government, including:
  - (A) tax and other revenue gains, direct or indirect, that would be realized during the qualifying time period, the limitation period, and a period of time after the limitation period considered appropriate by the comptroller; and
  - (B) economic effects of the project, including the impact on jobs and income, during the qualifying time period, the limitation period, and a period of time after the limitation period considered appropriate by the comptroller;
- (11) the economic condition of the region of the state at the time the person's application is being considered;
- (12) the number of new facilities built or expanded in the region during the two years preceding the date of the application that were eligible to apply for a limitation on appraised value under this subchapter;
- (13) the effect of the applicant's proposal, if approved, on the number or size of the school district's instructional facilities, as defined by Section 46.001, Education Code;
- (14) the projected market value of the qualified property of the applicant as determined by the comptroller;
- (15) the proposed limitation on appraised value for the qualified property of the applicant;
- (16) the projected dollar amount of the taxes that would be imposed on the qualified property, for each year of the agreement, if the property does not receive a limitation on appraised value with assumptions of the projected appreciation or depreciation of the investment and projected tax rates clearly stated;
- (17) the projected dollar amount of the taxes that would be imposed on the qualified property, for each tax year of the agreement, if the property receives a limitation on appraised value with assumptions of the projected appreciation or depreciation of the investment clearly stated;
- (18) the projected effect on the Foundation School Program of payments to the district for each year of the agreement;
- (19) the projected future tax credits if the applicant also applies for school tax credits under Section 313.103; and
- (20) the total amount of taxes projected to be lost or gained by the district over the life of the agreement computed by subtracting the projected taxes stated in Subdivision (17) from the projected taxes stated in Subdivision (16).

### **Wages, salaries and benefits [313.026(6-8)]**

After construction, the project will create ten new jobs when fully operational. All ten jobs will meet the criteria for qualifying jobs as specified in Tax Code Section 313.021(3). According to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), the regional manufacturing wage for the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission Region, where Carson County is located was \$41,850 in 2012. The annual average manufacturing wage for 2012 for Carson County is unavailable. That same year, the county annual average wage for all industries was \$74,672. In addition to a salary of \$50,000, each qualifying position will receive the following benefits: medical insurance, prescription insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, life & personal accident insurance, short- and long-term disability benefits, free instructor led and online training, tuition reimbursement, employee assistance program, adoption assistance, health care flexible spending account plan, dependent care flexible spending account plan, commuter benefits program, purchasing advantages through Insperity's marketplace, 401(k) plan, making friends international e:xchange program for children of employees, 15 to 25 days of paid vacation per year, 12 paid holidays per year, paid family and medical leave, and paid military leave. The project's total investment is \$275.8 million, resulting in a relative level of investment per qualifying job of \$27.6 million.

### **Ability of applicant to locate to another state and [313.026(9)]**

According to Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC's application, "E.ON Climate & Renewables (EC&R) is an international company that develops, constructs, and operates wind energy projects. EC&R has a proven history of success across the United States evidenced by the development, construction and operation of over 2,000 MWs of wind farms. We have the ability to locate projects of this type across the several regions within the United States, Canada, and Europe which gives EC&R the opportunity to maximize in return on capital investment. Securing this Chapter 313 abatement with GISD will help make the Project more economically viable and competitive versus other investment options in this region."

### **Number of new facilities in region [313.026(12)]**

During the past two years, 28 projects in the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission Region applied for value limitation agreements under Tax Code, Chapter 313.

### **Relationship of applicant's industry and jobs and Texas's economic growth plans [313.026(5)]**

The Texas Economic Development Plan focuses on attracting and developing industries using technology. It also identifies opportunities for existing Texas industries. The plan centers on promoting economic prosperity throughout Texas and the skilled workers that the Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC project requires appear to be in line with the focus and themes of the plan. Texas identified energy as one of six target clusters in the Texas Cluster Initiative. The plan stresses the importance of technology in all sectors of the energy industry.

### **Economic Impact [313.026(10)(A), (10)(B), (11), (13-20)]**

Table 1 depicts Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC's estimated economic impact to Texas. It depicts the direct, indirect and induced effects to employment and personal income within the state. The Comptroller's office calculated the economic impact based on 15 years of annual investment and employment levels using software from Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI). The impact includes the construction period and the operating period of the project.

**Table 1: Estimated Statewide Economic Impact of Investment and Employment in Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC**

Year	Employment			Personal Income		
	Direct	Indirect + Induced	Total	Direct	Indirect + Induced	Total
2014	15	17	32	\$750,000	\$1,250,000	\$2,000,000
2015	100	101	201	\$5,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$12,000,000
2016	10	10	20	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000
2017	10	12	22	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000
2018	10	13	23	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000
2019	10	15	25	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000
2020	10	17	27	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000
2021	10	19	29	\$500,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000
2022	10	19	29	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000
2023	10	17	27	\$500,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000
2024	10	15	25	\$500,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000
2025	10	21	31	\$500,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000
2026	10	13	23	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000
2027	10	13	23	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000
2028	10	10	20	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000
2029	10	6	16	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000

Source: CPA, REMI, Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC

The statewide average ad valorem tax base for school districts in Texas was \$1.65 billion in 2012-2013. Groom ISD's ad valorem tax base in 2012-2013 was \$65.5 million. The statewide average wealth per WADA was estimated at \$343,155 for fiscal 2012-2013. During that same year, Groom ISD's estimated wealth per WADA was \$298,306. The impact on the facilities and finances of the district are presented in Attachment 2.

Table 2 examines the estimated direct impact on ad valorem taxes to the school district, Carson County, and Panhandle Underground Water Conservation District #3, with all property tax incentives sought being granted using estimated market value from Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC's application. Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC has applied for both a value limitation under Chapter 313, Tax Code and a tax abatement with the county. Table 3 illustrates the estimated tax impact of the Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC project on the region if all taxes are assessed.

Year	Estimated Taxable Value for I&S	Estimated Taxable Value for M&O		Groom ISD I&S Levy	Groom ISD M&O Levy	Groom ISD M&O and I&S Tax Levies (Before Credit Credited)	Groom ISD M&O and I&S Tax Levies (After Credit Credited)	Carson County Tax Levy	Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District #3 Tax Levy	Estimated Total Property Taxes
			Tax Rate <sup>1</sup>	0.2320	1.1700			0.5162	0.0089	
2015	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000		\$4,640	\$23,400	\$28,040	\$28,040	\$10,325	\$177	\$38,542
2016	\$239,967,750	\$239,967,750		\$556,725	\$2,807,623	\$3,364,348	\$3,364,348	\$371,632	\$21,285	\$3,757,265
2017	\$230,369,040	\$10,000,000		\$534,456	\$117,000	\$651,456	\$651,456	\$356,767	\$20,434	\$1,028,657
2018	\$220,770,330	\$10,000,000		\$512,187	\$117,000	\$629,187	\$512,183	\$341,901	\$19,582	\$873,667
2019	\$211,171,620	\$10,000,000		\$489,918	\$117,000	\$606,918	\$491,402	\$327,036	\$18,731	\$837,169
2020	\$201,572,910	\$10,000,000		\$467,649	\$117,000	\$584,649	\$469,709	\$312,171	\$17,880	\$799,759
2021	\$191,974,200	\$10,000,000		\$445,380	\$117,000	\$562,380	\$448,208	\$693,713	\$17,028	\$1,158,949
2022	\$182,375,490	\$10,000,000		\$423,111	\$117,000	\$540,111	\$426,898	\$659,028	\$16,177	\$1,102,103
2023	\$172,776,780	\$10,000,000		\$400,842	\$117,000	\$517,842	\$406,645	\$624,342	\$15,325	\$1,046,312
2024	\$163,178,070	\$10,000,000		\$378,573	\$117,000	\$495,573	\$385,672	\$589,656	\$14,474	\$989,802
2025	\$153,579,360	\$153,579,360		\$356,304	\$1,796,879	\$2,153,183	\$557,462	\$554,971	\$13,622	\$1,126,055
2026	\$143,980,650	\$143,980,650		\$334,035	\$1,684,574	\$2,018,609	\$2,018,609	\$743,264	\$12,771	\$2,774,644
2027	\$134,381,940	\$134,381,940		\$311,766	\$1,572,269	\$1,884,035	\$1,884,035	\$693,713	\$11,920	\$2,589,668
2028	\$124,783,230	\$124,783,230		\$289,497	\$1,459,964	\$1,749,461	\$1,749,461	\$644,162	\$11,068	\$2,404,691
2029	\$115,184,520	\$115,184,520		\$267,228	\$1,347,659	\$1,614,887	\$1,614,887	\$594,611	\$10,217	\$2,219,715
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,009,014</b>	<b>\$7,517,292</b>	<b>\$220,691</b>	<b>\$22,746,998</b>

Assumes School Value Limitation and Tax Abatement with the County.

Source: CPA, Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC

<sup>1</sup>Tax Rate per \$100 Valuation

Year	Estimated Taxable Value for I&S	Estimated Taxable Value for M&O		Groom ISD I&S Levy	Groom ISD M&O Levy		Groom ISD M&O and I&S Tax Levies	Carson County Tax Levy	Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District #3 Tax Levy	Estimated Total Property Taxes
			Tax Rate <sup>1</sup>	0.2320	1.1700			0.5162	0.0089	
2015	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000		\$4,640	\$23,400		\$28,040	\$10,325	\$177	\$38,542
2016	\$239,967,750	\$239,967,750		\$556,725	\$2,807,623		\$3,364,348	\$1,238,774	\$21,285	\$4,624,407
2017	\$230,369,040	\$230,369,040		\$534,456	\$2,695,318		\$3,229,774	\$1,189,223	\$20,434	\$4,439,430
2018	\$220,770,330	\$220,770,330		\$512,187	\$2,583,013		\$3,095,200	\$1,139,672	\$19,582	\$4,254,454
2019	\$211,171,620	\$211,171,620		\$489,918	\$2,470,708		\$2,960,626	\$1,090,121	\$18,731	\$4,069,478
2020	\$201,572,910	\$201,572,910		\$467,649	\$2,358,403		\$2,826,052	\$1,040,570	\$17,880	\$3,884,501
2021	\$191,974,200	\$191,974,200		\$445,380	\$2,246,098		\$2,691,478	\$991,019	\$17,028	\$3,699,525
2022	\$182,375,490	\$182,375,490		\$423,111	\$2,133,793		\$2,556,904	\$941,468	\$16,177	\$3,514,549
2023	\$172,776,780	\$172,776,780		\$400,842	\$2,021,488		\$2,422,330	\$891,917	\$15,325	\$3,329,573
2024	\$163,178,070	\$163,178,070		\$378,573	\$1,909,183		\$2,287,757	\$842,366	\$14,474	\$3,144,596
2025	\$153,579,360	\$153,579,360		\$356,304	\$1,796,879		\$2,153,183	\$792,815	\$13,622	\$2,959,620
2026	\$143,980,650	\$143,980,650		\$334,035	\$1,684,574		\$2,018,609	\$743,264	\$12,771	\$2,774,644
2027	\$134,381,940	\$134,381,940		\$311,766	\$1,572,269		\$1,884,035	\$693,713	\$11,920	\$2,589,668
2028	\$124,783,230	\$124,783,230		\$289,497	\$1,459,964		\$1,749,461	\$644,162	\$11,068	\$2,404,691
2029	\$115,184,520	\$115,184,520		\$267,228	\$1,347,659		\$1,614,887	\$594,611	\$10,217	\$2,219,715
						<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,882,684</b>	<b>\$12,844,018</b>	<b>\$220,691</b>	<b>\$47,947,393</b>

Source: CPA, Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC

<sup>1</sup>Tax Rate per \$100 Valuation

Attachment 1 includes schedules A, B, C, and D provided by the applicant in the application. Schedule A shows proposed investment. Schedule B is the projected market value of the qualified property. Schedule C contains employment information, and Schedule D contains tax expenditures and other tax abatement information.

Attachment 2, provided by the district and reviewed by the Texas Education Agency, contains information relating to the financial impact of the proposed project on the finances of the district as well as the tax benefit of the value limitation. "TABLE II" in this attachment shows the estimated 13 year M&O tax levy without the value limitation agreement would be \$25,791,137. The estimated gross 13 year M&O tax benefit, or levy loss, is \$19,873,669.

Attachment 3 is an economic overview of Carson County.

**Disclaimer:** This examination is based on information from the application submitted to the school district and forwarded to the comptroller. It is intended to meet the statutory requirement of Chapter 313 of the Tax Code and is not intended for any other purpose.

# Attachments

1. Schedules A, B, C, and D provided by applicant in application
2. School finance and tax benefit provided by district
3. County Economic Overview

# **Attachment 1**



**Schedule B (Rev. May 2010): Estimated Market And Taxable Value**

Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC

Applicant Name  
ISD Name

Form 50-296

Groom ISD

Year	School Year (YYYY-YYYY)	Tax Year (Fill in actual tax year) YYYY	Qualified Property			Reductions from Market Value	Estimated Taxable Value	
			Estimated Market Value of Land	Estimated Total Market Value of new buildings or other new improvements	Estimated Total Market Value of tangible personal property in the new building or "in or on the new improvement"		Final taxable value for I&S - after all reductions	Final taxable value for M&O--after all reductions
pre-year 1	2014-2015	2014			-			
Complete tax years of qualifying time period	1	2015-2016			2,000,000		2,000,000	2,000,000
	2	2016-2017			239,967,750		239,967,750	239,967,750
	3	2017-2018			230,369,040		230,369,040	10,000,000
	4	2018-2019			220,770,330		220,770,330	10,000,000
	5	2019-2020			211,171,620		211,171,620	10,000,000
Tax Credit Period (with 50% cap on credit)	6	2020-2021			201,572,910		201,572,910	10,000,000
	7	2021-2022			191,974,200		191,974,200	10,000,000
	8	2022-2023			182,375,490		182,375,490	10,000,000
	9	2023-2024			172,776,780		172,776,780	10,000,000
	10	2024-2025			163,178,070		163,178,070	10,000,000
Credit Settle-Up Period	11	2025-2026			153,579,360		153,579,360	153,579,360
	12	2026-2027			143,980,650		143,980,650	143,980,650
	13	2027-2028			134,381,940		134,381,940	134,381,940
Post- Settle-Up Period	14	2028-2029			124,783,230		124,783,230	124,783,230
	15	2029-2030			115,184,520		115,184,520	115,184,520

Notes: Market value in future years is good faith estimate of future taxable value for the purposes of property taxation. This schedule must be submitted with the original application and any application for tax credit. When using this schedule for any purpose other than the original application, replace original estimates with actual appraisal district data for past years and update estimates for current and future years. If original estimates have not changed, enter these amounts for future years.

*[Signature]*

11/14/13

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE

DATE

Applicant Name  
ISD Name

Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC  
Groom ISD

Schedule C- Application: Employment Information

Form 50-296

	Year	School Year (YYYY-YYYY)	Tax Year (Fill in actual tax year) YYYY	Construction		New Jobs		Qualifying Jobs		
				Column A: Number of Construction FTE's or man- hours (specify)	Column B: Average annual wage rates for construction workers	Column C: Number of new jobs applicant commits to create (cumulative)	Column D: Average annual wage rate for all new jobs.	Column E: Number of qualifying jobs applicant commits to create meeting all criteria of Sec. 313.021(3) (cumulative)	Column F: Average annual wage of qualifying jobs	
	pre-year 1	2014-2015	2014	15 FTE	50,000					
	1	2015-2016	2015	100 FTE	50,000					
	2	2016-2017	2016			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	3	2017-2018	2017			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	4	2018-2019	2018			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	5	2019-2020	2019			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	6	2020-2021	2020			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	7	2021-2022	2021			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	8	2022-2023	2022			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	9	2023-2024	2023			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	10	2024-2025	2024			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	11	2025-2026	2025			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	12	2026-2027	2026			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	13	2027-2028	2027			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	14	2028-2029	2028			10	50,000	10	50,000	
	15	2029-2030	2029			10	50,000	10	50,000	
Tax Credit Period (with 50% cap on credit)										
Credit Settle-Up Period										
Post- Settle-Up Period										
Post- Settle-Up Period										

Notes: For job definitions see TAC §9.1051(14) and Tax Code §313.021(3).

This schedule must be submitted with the original application and any application for tax credit. When using this schedule for any purpose other than the original application, replace original estimates with actual appraisal district data for past years and update estimates for current and future years. If original estimates have not changed, enter those amounts for future years.

*[Signature]*

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE

11/14/13

DATE



# Attachment 2



1701 North Congress Ave. • Austin, Texas 78701-1494 • 512 463-9734 • 512 463-9838 FAX • [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us)

Michael Williams  
Commissioner

March 3, 2014

Mr. Robert Wood  
Director, Economic Development and Analysis  
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts  
Lyndon B. Johnson State Office Building  
111 East 17th Street  
Austin, Texas 78774

Dear Mr. Wood:

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has analyzed the revenue gains that would be realized by the proposed Grandview Windfarm II LLC project for the Groom Independent School District (GISD). Projections prepared by the TEA State Funding Division confirm the analysis that was prepared by McDowell & Brown and provided to us by your division. We believe their assumptions regarding the potential revenue gain are valid, and their estimates of the impact of the Grandview Windfarm II LLC project on GISD are correct.

Please feel free to contact me by phone at (512) 463-9186 or by email at [al.mckenzie@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:al.mckenzie@tea.state.tx.us) if you need further information about this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al McKenzie".

Al McKenzie, Manager  
Foundation School Program Support

AM/rk



1701 North Congress Ave. • Austin, Texas 78701-1494 • 512 463-9734 • 512 463-9838 FAX • [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us)

Michael Williams  
Commissioner

March 3, 2014

Mr. Robert Wood  
Director, Economic Development and Analysis  
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts  
Lyndon B. Johnson State Office Building  
111 East 17th Street  
Austin, Texas 78774

Dear Mr. Wood:

As required by the Tax Code, §313.025 (b-1), the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has evaluated the impact of the proposed Grandview Windfarm II LLC project on the number and size of school facilities in Groom Independent School District (GISD). Based on the analysis prepared by McDowell & Brown for the school district and a conversation with the GISD superintendent, Jay Lamb, the TEA has found that the Grandview Windfarm II LLC project would not have a significant impact on the number or size of school facilities in GISD.

Please feel free to contact me by phone at (512) 463-9186 or by email at [al.mckenzie@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:al.mckenzie@tea.state.tx.us) if you need further information about this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al McKenzie", is written over a horizontal line.

Al McKenzie, Manager  
Foundation School Program Support

AM/rk

**Summary of the District's Financial Impact  
of Chapter 313 Agreement  
with Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC**

**Prepared by**

**Randy McDowell, RTSBA**

**&**

**Neal Brown**

**School Finance Consultants**

# **Groom ISD Financial Impact of Chapter 313 Agreement**

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## **Summary of Groom ISD Financial Impact of the Limited Appraised Value Application from Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC**

### **Introduction**

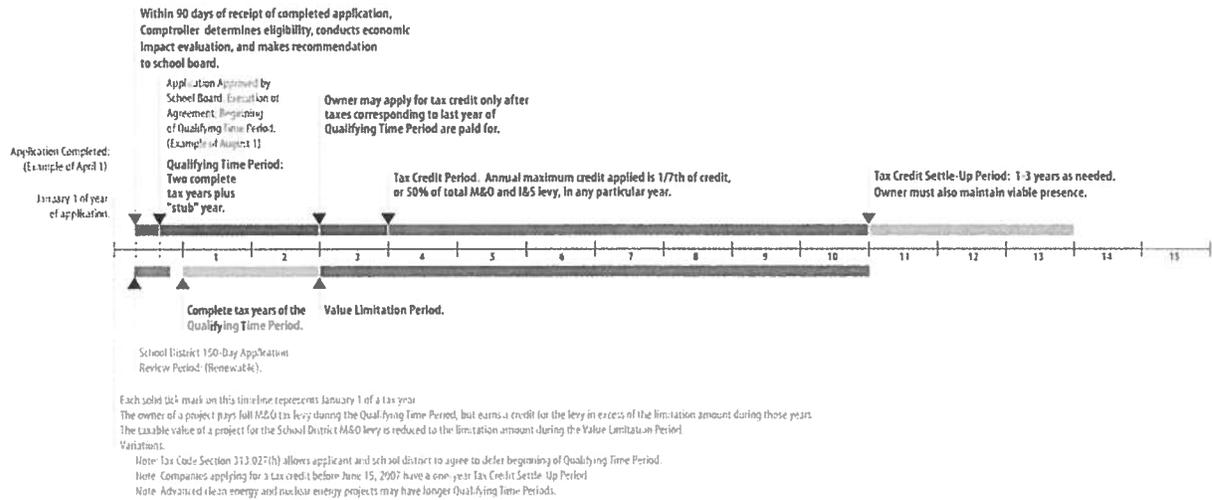
Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC applied for a property value limitation from Groom Independent School District under Chapter 313 of the Tax Code. The application was submitted on November 12, 2013 and subsequently approved for consideration by the Groom ISD Board of Trustees. Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC (“Grandview Wind II”), is requesting the property value limitation as a “renewable energy electric generation” project as listed in Sec. 313.024.(b) of the Tax Code.

“The Economic Development Act”, Tax Code Chapter 313, was created by House Bill 1200 of the 77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in 2001. Further amendments were made to Chapter 313 as a result of House Bill 1470 from the 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session in 2007.

The Economic Development Act was created to attract qualifying businesses to Texas by allowing school districts the option of approving a property value limitation to these qualifying entities. The purpose of the property value limitation is to reduce the maintenance and operations taxes paid by the company, to a school district during the applicable years as displayed below.

# Groom ISD Financial Impact of Chapter 313 Agreement

## Appraised Value Limitation and Credit under Tax Code Chapter 313 for School District Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Tax



The company must file an application with the school district to qualify for consideration of a Limited Appraised Value Agreement (“LAVA” or “Agreement”) to begin the following tax year or a later year if agreed upon by the District and the Company. The first two years of the agreement are considered the qualifying time period and the company’s school district taxes will be levied at one-hundred percent of the appraised value. The applicant may then file a separate application with the school district to request tax credits (for taxes paid during the qualifying time period) to be applied during years four through ten of the LAVA, but not to exceed 50% of their tax levy for those years. Any tax credit balance remaining after this period can then be applied during years eleven through thirteen of the agreement, but cannot exceed the actual amount of taxes paid to the school district during the Settle-Up Period. After year thirteen, any leftover credits will not be applied and will expire.

During years three through ten of the LAVA, the qualifying entity’s taxable value will be reduced to the minimum qualified investment for the applicable school district as determined by the State Comptroller’s Office. Groom ISD is considered a Rural category 3 District as categorized with total taxable value of industrial property of at least \$1 million but less than \$90 million, thus Groom ISD

## Groom ISD Financial Impact of Chapter 313 Agreement

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has a minimum qualified investment amount of \$10 million. A qualifying entity's taxable value would be reduced to \$10 million during years three through ten of the agreement for the purposes of computing the tax levy for the maintenance and operations (M&O) tax of Groom ISD. The entire appraised value will be used for computing the interest and sinking (I&S) tax levy.

### Taxable Value Impact from LAVA

The "Additional Value from Grandview Wind II" represents the values that the company estimated as their taxable values in the application that was filed with the district. During years three through ten, the company's taxable value will be limited to the \$10,000,000 minimum qualified investment of Groom ISD.

**TABLE I- Calculation of Taxable Value:**

Tax Year	Additional Value From Grandview Wind II	Minimum Qualified Investment	Abated Value	Taxable Value
Jan. 1, 2015	2,000,000	n/a	0	2,000,000
Jan. 1, 2016	239,967,750	n/a	0	239,967,750
Jan. 1, 2017	230,369,040	(10,000,000)	220,369,040	10,000,000
Jan. 1, 2018	220,770,330	(10,000,000)	210,770,330	10,000,000
Jan. 1, 2019	211,171,620	(10,000,000)	201,171,620	10,000,000
Jan. 1, 2020	201,572,910	(10,000,000)	191,572,910	10,000,000
Jan. 1, 2021	191,974,200	(10,000,000)	181,974,200	10,000,000
Jan. 1, 2022	182,375,490	(10,000,000)	172,375,490	10,000,000
Jan. 1, 2023	172,776,780	(10,000,000)	162,776,780	10,000,000
Jan. 1, 2024	163,178,070	(10,000,000)	153,178,070	10,000,000
Jan. 1, 2025	153,579,360	n/a	0	153,579,360
Jan. 1, 2026	143,980,650	n/a	0	143,980,650
Jan. 1, 2027	134,381,940	n/a	0	134,381,940

# Groom ISD Financial Impact of Chapter 313 Agreement

## Grandview Wind II's Tax Benefit from Agreement

The projected amount of the net tax savings for Grandview Wind II is \$17.91 million over the life of the Agreement. This net savings is after all tax credits have been applied and after estimated payments have been made to the district to offset their revenue losses that were a direct result of entering into this Agreement. Tax credits during years four through ten are limited to the lesser of 1/7 of the total tax credit or 50% of the total taxes paid for that tax year. Any tax credits not refunded to the company during those years will be refunded up to 100% of the taxes paid in years eleven through thirteen.

Groom ISD's projected tax rates for maintenance & operations (M&O) and interest & sinking (I&S) are based on the following assumptions:

- The District has held a tax ratification election and the study projects that it will maintain an M&O tax rate of \$1.17 for the life of this agreement. The M&O rate for 2016-2017 and 2025-2026 is projected to decrease to \$1.04, due to the rollback tax rate calculation.
- The district currently has outstanding bonded indebtedness that are scheduled to payoff in 2027 and currently has a \$.232 I&S rate. The annual debt payment is approximately \$155,000. The additional value of the company will further reduce the I&S tax rate. The district could pursue a bond election and issue additional bonded debt during the life of this agreement.

**TABLE II- Computation of Net Tax Savings:**

Fiscal Year	Projected M&O Tax Rate	Projected I&S Tax Rate	Taxes w/o Agreement	Tax Savings with Agreement	Tax Credits	Payment of District's Revenue Losses	Net Tax Savings
2015-2016	1.1700	0.206	23,400	0	n/a	0	0
2016-2017	1.0400	0.049	2,495,665	0	n/a	0	0
2017-2018	1.1700	0.051	2,695,318	2,578,318	n/a	(1,539,017)	1,039,301
2018-2019	1.1700	0.053	2,583,013	2,466,013	117,004	(80,990)	2,502,027
2019-2020	1.1700	0.054	2,470,708	2,353,708	115,516	(74,236)	2,394,988
2020-2021	1.1700	0.056	2,358,403	2,241,403	114,940	(67,453)	2,288,891
2021-2022	1.1700	0.058	2,246,098	2,129,098	114,173	(62,167)	2,181,104
2022-2023	1.1700	0.060	2,133,793	2,016,793	113,213	(53,364)	2,076,642
2023-2024	1.1700	0.061	2,021,488	1,904,488	111,197	(46,049)	1,969,636
2024-2025	1.1700	0.063	1,909,183	1,792,183	109,901	(38,674)	1,863,411
2025-2026	1.0400	0.066	1,597,225	0	1,595,721	0	1,595,721
2026-2027	1.1700	0.068	1,684,574	0	0	0	0
2027-2028	1.1700	0.000	1,572,269	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>			<b>25,791,137</b>	<b>17,482,005</b>	<b>2,391,665</b>	<b>(1,961,949)</b>	<b>17,911,721</b>

# Groom ISD Financial Impact of Chapter 313 Agreement

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## Financial Impact Study

This Financial Impact Study was performed to determine the financial impact of the Limited Appraised Value Agreement on Groom ISD. First, a thirteen year financial forecast was prepared to establish a baseline without the added values of the renewable energy electric generation company. Second, a thirteen year financial forecast was prepared that incorporated the additional taxable value of the company without a LAVA in effect. Third, a thirteen year financial forecast was prepared that incorporates the additional taxable value of the company with an approved LAVA. These three forecasts are detailed in the "Calculation of LAVA Impact on District's Finances" section. The following assumptions were used to compare the financial impact of the LAVA:

- The current state funding formulas (in effect for 2013-2014 fiscal year) were used for state aid and recapture calculation purposes
  - Level 2 of Tier II yield - \$61.86 per weighted student in average daily attendance (WADA) per penny of tax effort
- The district's tax rate for maintenance & operations (M&O) will remain at the same rate as for tax year 2013.
- A tax collection rate of 100% on current year tax levy with no projected delinquent taxes
- An annual taxable value increase of 1.0% was used to project the district's taxable value, except as it related to the requested LAVA. The district's 2013 taxable value was used as a baseline for all projections
- The district's enrollment is projected to decrease slightly; therefore, the projected ADA and WADA for school year 2013-2014 was decreased by .5% per year for the life of the agreement.

Although these assumptions were used to develop a baseline scenario for comparison purposes, many of these factors will not remain constant for the thirteen years of this proposed agreement. Also, Legislative changes to the school finance formulas are likely during the near future and almost certain during the life of this agreement.

# Groom ISD Financial Impact of Chapter 313 Agreement

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## Calculation of LAVA Impact on District's Finances

The tables displayed below (Table III, IV, V) show the different impacts on the school district's finances. These scenarios were computed to compare the District's revenue without the additional taxable value of Grandview Wind II (Table III), the addition of Grandview Wind II's taxable values without a Chapter 313 Agreement (Table IV), and the addition of Grandview Wind II's taxable values with a Chapter 313 Agreement (Table V).

**TABLE III – District Revenues *without* Grandview Wind II:**

Fiscal Year	Total Taxable Value	M&O Taxes		Recapture Amount	Hold Harmless Revenue	M&O Taxes > Comp Rate	Total District Revenue
		Compressed Rate	State Revenue				
2015-2016	73,032,403	730,324	453,464	1,980	1,181,808	164,002	1,345,810
2016-2017	73,762,727	737,627	440,241	2,395	1,175,474	164,370	1,339,844
2017-2018	74,500,354	745,004	424,054	3,600	1,165,457	164,749	1,330,206
2018-2019	75,245,358	752,454	411,455	4,812	1,159,097	165,138	1,324,235
2019-2020	75,997,812	759,978	393,642	6,029	1,147,591	165,538	1,313,129
2020-2021	76,757,790	767,578	380,894	7,252	1,141,219	165,947	1,307,167
2021-2022	77,525,368	775,254	368,070	8,481	1,134,842	166,368	1,301,210
2022-2023	78,300,621	783,006	355,172	9,717	1,128,461	166,799	1,295,260
2023-2024	79,083,627	790,836	342,199	10,959	1,122,076	167,240	1,289,316
2024-2025	79,874,464	798,745	329,144	12,208	1,115,681	167,692	1,283,373
2025-2026	80,673,208	806,732	316,010	13,463	1,109,279	168,155	1,277,434
2026-2027	81,479,940	814,799	302,796	14,725	1,102,871	168,629	1,271,500
2027-2028	82,294,740	822,947	289,638	15,993	1,096,592	169,114	1,265,706

## Groom ISD Financial Impact of Chapter 313 Agreement

**TABLE IV- District Revenues with Grandview Wind II without Chapter 313 Agreement:**

Fiscal Year	Total Taxable Value	M&O Taxes		State Revenue	Recapture Amount	Hold Harmless Revenue	M&O Taxes > Comp Rate	Total District Revenue
		Compressed Rate	State Revenue					
2015-2016	75,032,403	750,324	448,822	2,436	1,196,710	168,016	1,364,726	
2016-2017	313,730,477	3,137,305	393,538	0	3,530,843	226,716	3,757,559	
2017-2018	304,869,394	3,048,694	84,434	2,231,445	901,683	514,403	1,416,086	
2018-2019	296,015,688	2,960,157	83,336	2,139,949	903,544	499,502	1,403,046	
2019-2020	287,169,432	2,871,694	77,441	2,048,553	900,582	484,614	1,385,196	
2020-2021	278,330,700	2,783,307	76,677	1,957,260	902,724	469,738	1,372,462	
2021-2022	269,499,568	2,694,996	77,437	1,866,077	906,355	454,875	1,361,231	
2022-2023	260,676,111	2,606,761	74,712	1,775,010	906,463	440,026	1,346,489	
2023-2024	251,860,407	2,518,604	73,513	1,684,066	908,050	425,189	1,333,239	
2024-2025	243,052,534	2,430,525	72,295	1,593,253	909,567	410,365	1,319,932	
2025-2026	234,252,568	2,342,526	71,434	1,502,580	911,380	395,555	1,306,935	
2026-2027	225,460,590	2,254,606	70,181	1,412,057	912,731	380,758	1,293,489	
2027-2028	216,676,680	2,166,767	68,906	1,321,694	913,979	365,975	1,279,954	

**TABLE V – District Revenues with Grandview Wind II with Chapter 313 Agreement:**

Fiscal Year	Total Taxable Value	M&O Taxes Comp Rate	State Revenue	Recapture Amount	Hold Harmless Revenue	M&O		Total District Revenue
						Taxes > Comp Rate	Payment for District Losses	
2015-2016	75,032,403	750,324	448,822	2,436	1,196,710	168,016	0	1,364,726
2016-2017	313,730,477	3,137,305	393,538	0	3,530,843	226,716	0	3,757,559
2017-2018	84,500,354	845,004	(492,494)	618,962	(266,453)	143,522	1,539,017	1,416,086
2018-2019	85,245,358	852,454	310,455	16,275	1,146,633	175,422	80,990	1,403,046
2019-2020	85,997,812	859,978	292,642	17,487	1,135,133	175,827	74,236	1,385,196
2020-2021	86,757,790	867,578	279,894	18,705	1,128,767	176,243	67,453	1,372,462
2021-2022	87,525,368	875,254	267,070	19,929	1,122,395	176,669	62,167	1,361,231
2022-2023	88,300,621	883,006	254,173	21,160	1,116,020	177,105	53,364	1,346,489
2023-2024	89,083,627	890,836	241,198	22,397	1,109,638	177,552	46,049	1,333,239
2024-2025	89,874,464	898,745	228,145	23,640	1,103,249	178,009	38,674	1,319,932
2025-2026	234,252,568	2,342,526	201,613	0	2,544,138	135,219	0	2,679,358
2026-2027	225,460,590	2,254,606	70,181	1,412,057	912,731	380,758	0	1,293,489
2027-2028	216,676,680	2,166,767	68,906	1,321,694	913,979	365,975	0	1,279,954

# Groom ISD Financial Impact of Chapter 313 Agreement

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## Current School Finance Law

A major overhaul of the school finance formulas was implemented as a result of House Bill 1 of the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and became effective for the 2006-2007 school year. Those formula changes had an effect on the district's financial impact from granting a property value limitation. Due to the district's "Hold Harmless" provision that was enacted in the funding formulas, some districts had the majority of the district's revenue losses in year three of the LAVA offset with additional state funding. The funding that was available to offset those revenue losses was called Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction (ASATR) and those funds were phased out as a result of legislation in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session in 2011. This legislation eliminated the ASATR funding for fiscal year 2017-2018 and thereafter and can have a significant financial impact for LAVA agreements that have a year three in 2017-2018 or later. The loss of ASATR funding can again cause a district to experience a significant loss of funds in year three of the agreement and consequently cause the company to have revenue protection payments during that year that are similar to those experienced prior to 2006-2007.

# Groom ISD Financial Impact of Chapter 313 Agreement

## Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Assuming that the District and Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC mutually agree in the LAVA that \$100 per student in average daily attendance (ADA) will be paid to Groom ISD by Grandview Wind II, the projected amount of these payments over the life of the agreement is \$160,579 of the \$17.91 million net tax savings amount. This amount will be computed annually according to Section IV of the Agreement.

**TABLE VI - Calculation of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes:**

Fiscal Year	Net Tax Savings	Groom ISD Share \$100/ADA	Grandview Wind II's Share
2015-2016	0	12,727	(12,727)
2016-2017	0	12,664	(12,664)
2017-2018	1,039,301	12,600	1,026,701
2018-2019	2,502,027	12,537	2,489,490
2019-2020	2,394,988	12,475	2,382,514
2020-2021	2,288,891	12,412	2,276,478
2021-2022	2,181,104	12,350	2,168,754
2022-2023	2,076,642	12,288	2,064,354
2023-2024	1,969,636	12,227	1,957,409
2024-2025	1,863,411	12,166	1,851,245
2025-2026	1,595,721	12,105	1,583,616
2026-2027	0	12,044	(12,044)
2027-2028	0	11,984	(11,984)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17,911,721</b>	<b>160,579</b>	<b>17,751,141</b>

# Groom ISD Financial Impact of Chapter 313 Agreement

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## Impact of Projected Student Growth On District Facilities

**TABLE VII – Campus Capacity and Available Growth**

Grade Level	# of Regular Classrooms	Building Capacity	Current Enrollment	Enrollment Growth Available
K-12	24	432	137	295
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>295</b>

The building capacities are based on 18 students per classroom for all grade levels. Groom ISD is a kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade district.

Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC provided supplemental information with their application that projected the number of full-time employees that are expected for permanent employment after construction of the project is completed. They projected that ten full-time employees are expected. It is not known whether these would be new employees to the Groom ISD, or if current residents would occupy these positions; however, it is assumed that these employees would be new residents to the district.

Based on average statewide figures provided by a demographer, it is projected that each new household would produce .5 students. Thus, the new ten positions equates to 5 new students.

This minimal projected student growth can easily be accommodated with the current facilities of Groom ISD as displayed in Table VII above.

# Groom ISD Financial Impact of Chapter 313 Agreement

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## Conclusion

This Financial Impact Study displays that entering into a Limited Appraised Value Agreement with Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC, would be beneficial to both Grandview Wind II and Groom ISD under the current school finance system.

Grandview Wind Farm II, LLC would benefit from reduced property taxes during years three through ten of the LAVA. Although some of the tax savings would be used to offset district's revenue losses and payments in lieu of taxes to the District, Grandview Wind II is projected to benefit from a 88% tax savings over the first eleven year period of this agreement. Grandview Wind II also has the option of terminating the Agreement if the amount paid to the District during a tax year is greater than the amount of taxes that would have been paid without the agreement; therefore, there is no inherent risk for the company from entering into the Agreement.

Groom ISD would also have no inherent risk under the current school finance system and with the provisions in the LAVA that require Grandview Wind II to offset any district losses caused by the LAVA. An annual calculation will be performed each year to determine if a loss to the District has been incurred. The revenue impact to the District will be computed by comparing the District's revenues with and without the LAVA in effect.

# Attachment 3

# Carson County

## Population

- Total county population in 2010 for Carson County: 6,008 , down 1.0 percent from 2009. State population increased 1.8 percent in the same time period.
- Carson County was the state's 194th largest county in population in 2010 and the 236 th fastest growing county from 2009 to 2010.
- Carson County's population in 2009 was 86.7 percent Anglo (above the state average of 46.7 percent), 1.8 percent African-American (below the state average of 11.3 percent) and 9.5 percent Hispanic (below the state average of 36.9 percent).
- 2009 population of the largest cities and places in Carson County:

<b>Panhandle:</b>	2,425	<b>White Deer:</b>	982
<b>Skellytown:</b>	569	<b>Groom:</b>	548

## Economy and Income

### Employment

- September 2011 total employment in Carson County: 3,099 , up 0.8 percent from September 2010. State total employment increased 0.9 percent during the same period.  
*(October 2011 employment data will be available November 18, 2011).*
- September 2011 Carson County unemployment rate: 5.4 percent, up from 4.7 percent in September 2010. The statewide unemployment rate for September 2011 was 8.5 percent, up from 8.2 percent in September 2010.
- September 2011 unemployment rate in the city of:

**(Note: County and state unemployment rates are adjusted for seasonal fluctuations, but the Texas Workforce Commission city unemployment rates are not. Seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates are not comparable with unadjusted rates).**

### Income

- Carson County's ranking in per capita personal income in 2009: 57th with an average per capita income of \$37,163, down 0.2 percent from 2008. Statewide average per capita personal income was \$38,609 in 2009, down 3.1 percent from 2008.

### Industry

- Agricultural cash values in Carson County averaged \$66.85 million annually from 2007 to 2010. County total agricultural values in 2010 were up 42.1 percent from 2009. Major agriculture related commodities in Carson County during 2010 included:
  - Sorghum      ▪ Other Beef      ▪ Wheat      ▪ Cotton      ▪ Corn
- 2011 oil and gas production in Carson County: 158,747.0 barrels of oil and 8.8 million Mcf of gas. In September 2011, there were 1420 producing oil wells and 543 producing gas wells.

## Taxes

### Sales Tax - Taxable Sales

**(County and city taxable sales data for 1st quarter 2011 is currently targeted for release in mid-September 2011).**

*Quarterly (September 2010 through December 2010)*

- Taxable sales in Carson County during the fourth quarter 2010: \$4.29 million, down 3.9 percent from the same quarter in 2009.
- Taxable sales during the fourth quarter 2010 in the city of:

<b>Panhandle:</b>	\$1.50 million, up 0.9 percent from the same quarter in 2009.
<b>White Deer:</b>	\$1.04 million, down 2.7 percent from the same quarter in 2009.
<b>Skellytown:</b>	\$133,132.00, up 0.3 percent from the same quarter in 2009.
<b>Groom:</b>	\$599,521.00, up 7.9 percent from the same quarter in 2009.

*Taxable Sales through the end of 4th quarter 2010 (January 2010 through December 30, 2010)*

- Taxable sales in Carson County through the fourth quarter of 2010: \$15.97 million, down 1.8 percent from the same period in 2009.
- Taxable sales through the fourth quarter of 2010 in the city of:

<b>Panhandle:</b>	\$5.72 million, up 3.5 percent from the same period in 2009.
<b>White Deer:</b>	\$3.17 million, up 0.9 percent from the same period in 2009.
<b>Skellytown:</b>	\$570,791.00, up 4.5 percent from the same period in 2009.
<b>Groom:</b>	\$2.12 million, up 9.3 percent from the same period in 2009.

*Annual (2010)*

- Taxable sales in Carson County during 2010: \$15.97 million, down 1.8 percent from 2009.
- Carson County sent an estimated \$997,921.88 (or 0.01 percent of Texas' taxable sales) in state sales taxes to the state treasury in 2010.
- Taxable sales during 2010 in the city of:

<b>Panhandle:</b>	\$5.72 million, up 3.5 percent from 2009.
<b>White Deer:</b>	\$3.17 million, up 0.9 percent from 2009.
<b>Skellytown:</b>	\$570,791.00, up 4.5 percent from 2009.
<b>Groom:</b>	\$2.12 million, up 9.3 percent from 2009.

**Sales Tax – Local Sales Tax Allocations**

*(The release date for sales tax allocations to cities for the sales activity month of September 2011 is currently scheduled for November 9, 2011.)*

**Monthly**

- Statewide payments based on the sales activity month of August 2011: \$505.22 million, up 13.9 percent from August 2010.
- Payments to all cities in Carson County based on the sales activity month of August 2011: \$28,536.32, down 4.1 percent from August 2010.
- Payment based on the sales activity month of August 2011 to the city of:
 

<b>Panhandle:</b>	\$13,979.14, up 21.0 percent from August 2010.
<b>White Deer:</b>	\$7,475.77, down 32.5 percent from August 2010.
<b>Skellytown:</b>	\$1,664.29, down 10.5 percent from August 2010.
<b>Groom:</b>	\$5,417.12, up 2.7 percent from August 2010.

**Fiscal Year**

- Statewide payments based on sales activity months from September 2010 through August 2011: \$6.08 billion, up 8.0 percent from the same period in 2010.
- Payments to all cities in Carson County based on sales activity months from September 2010 through August 2011: \$359,245.74, down 1.6 percent from fiscal 2010.
- Payments based on sales activity months from September 2010 through August 2011 to the city of:
 

<b>Panhandle:</b>	\$167,505.02, up 10.0 percent from fiscal 2010.
<b>White Deer:</b>	\$101,473.36, up 0.3 percent from fiscal 2010.
<b>Skellytown:</b>	\$22,911.96, down 37.4 percent from fiscal 2010.
<b>Groom:</b>	\$67,355.40, down 10.3 percent from fiscal 2010.

**January 2011 through August 2011 (Sales Activity Year-To-Date)**

- Statewide payments based on sales activity months through August 2011: \$3.99 billion, up 8.3 percent from the same period in 2010.
- Payments to all cities in Carson County based on sales activity months through August 2011: \$234,340.47, down 0.6 percent from the same period in 2010.
- Payments based on sales activity months through August 2011 to the city of:
 

<b>Panhandle:</b>	\$112,576.02, up 12.1 percent from the same period in 2010.
<b>White Deer:</b>	\$65,544.15, up 9.0 percent from the same period in 2010.
<b>Skellytown:</b>	\$14,312.38, down 47.1 percent from the same period in 2010.
<b>Groom:</b>	\$41,907.92, down 12.7 percent from the same period in 2010.

**12 months ending in August 2011**

- Statewide payments based on sales activity in the 12 months ending in August 2011: \$6.08 billion, up 8.0 percent from the previous 12-month period.
- Payments to all cities in Carson County based on sales activity in the 12 months ending in August 2011: \$359,245.74, down 1.6 percent from the previous 12-month period.
- Payments based on sales activity in the 12 months ending in August 2011 to the city of:
 

<b>Panhandle:</b>	\$167,505.02, up 10.0 percent from the previous 12-month period.
<b>White Deer:</b>	\$101,473.36, up 0.3 percent from the previous 12-month period.
<b>Skellytown:</b>	\$22,911.96, down 37.4 percent from the previous 12-month period.
<b>Groom:</b>	\$67,355.40, down 10.3 percent from the previous 12-month period.

**City Calendar Year-To-Date (RJ 2011)**

- Payment to the cities from January 2011 through October 2011:
 

<b>Panhandle:</b>	\$143,218.50, up 12.9 percent from the same period in 2010.
<b>White Deer:</b>	\$87,250.49, up 5.1 percent from the same period in 2010.
<b>Skellytown:</b>	\$19,342.17, down 38.9 percent from the same period in 2010.
<b>Groom:</b>	\$55,041.28, down 9.8 percent from the same period in 2010.

**Annual (2010)**

- Statewide payments based on sales activity months in 2010: \$5.77 billion, up 3.3 percent from 2009.

- Payments to all cities in Carson County based on sales activity months in 2010: \$360,548.74, up 5.1 percent from 2009.
- Payment based on sales activity months in 2010 to the city of:

Panhandle:	\$155,380.52, up 2.4 percent from 2009.
White Deer:	\$96,050.33, down 5.9 percent from 2009.
Skellytown:	\$35,649.27, up 50.3 percent from 2009.
Groom:	\$73,468.62, up 12.0 percent from 2009.

***Property Tax***

- As of January 2009, property values in Carson County: \$1.24 billion, up 14.1 percent from January 2008 values. The property tax base per person in Carson County is \$202,248, above the statewide average of \$85,809. About 43.7 percent of the property tax base is derived from oil, gas and minerals.

**State Expenditures**

- Carson County's ranking in state expenditures by county in fiscal year 2010: 206th. State expenditures in the county for FY2010: \$16.67 million, down 0.5 percent from FY2009.
- In Carson County, 8 state agencies provide a total of 39 jobs and \$402,980.00 in annualized wages (as of 1st quarter 2011).
- Major state agencies in the county (as of first quarter 2011):
  - Department of Transportation
  - Department of Public Safety
  - Department of Aging and Disability Services
  - AgriLife Extension Service

**Higher Education**

- Community colleges in Carson County fall 2010 enrollment:
  - None.
- Carson County is in the service area of the following:
  - Amarillo College with a fall 2010 enrollment of 11,540 . Counties in the service area include:
    - Carson County
    - Castro County
    - Deaf Smith County
    - Moore County
    - Oldham County
    - Parmer County
    - Potter County
    - Randall County
    - Swisher County
- Institutions of higher education in Carson County fall 2010 enrollment:
  - None.

**School Districts**

- Carson County had 3 school districts with 6 schools and 1,179 students in the 2009-10 school year.  
 (Statewide, the average teacher salary in school year 2009-10 was \$48,263. The percentage of students, statewide, meeting the 2010 TAKS passing standard for all 2009-10 TAKS tests was 77 percent.)
  - Groom ISD had 134 students in the 2009-10 school year. The average teacher salary was \$43,590. The percentage of students meeting the 2010 TAKS passing standard for all tests was 91 percent.
  - Panhandle ISD had 660 students in the 2009-10 school year. The average teacher salary was \$42,798. The percentage of students meeting the 2010 TAKS passing standard for all tests was 81 percent.
  - White Deer ISD had 385 students in the 2009-10 school year. The average teacher salary was \$42,681. The percentage of students meeting the 2010 TAKS passing standard for all tests was 79 percent.