

A RESOLUTION OF
THE BASTROP Economic Development Corp.
OPPOSING THE GUADALUPE BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY
SIMSBORO WATER PROJECT IN BASTROP AND LEE COUNTIES

Whereas, the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (the "GBRA") entered into a letter agreement for the purchase of water to be produced from the Simsboro aquifer located in Bastrop and Lee Counties; and

Whereas, GBRA intends to build a pipeline to transport this groundwater to the San Marcos-New Braunfels area; and

Whereas, applications have been filed with Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District ("Lost Pines") for permission to withdraw a total of 56,000 acre feet (AF) of water from the Simsboro aquifer, 30,000 AF of water per year will be withdrawn from Bastrop County and 26,000 AF per year will be withdrawn from Lee County; and

Whereas, the currently proposed State Water Plan shows that the Simsboro aquifer in Bastrop County has water availability totaling 28,000 acre/feet of water per year, and Lost Pines has issued permits to local water users for the withdrawal of 43,486 acre feet of water per year; and

Whereas, 20,198 acre feet of water was pumped from Bastrop County in 2009; and

Whereas, the proposed State Water Plan shows that the Simsboro aquifer in Lee County has water availability of 27,533 AF per year and at the end of the 50-year planning period, there is estimated there will be 19,777 AF/year available; and

Whereas, for the purposes of determining groundwater availability in the Simsboro aquifer, Lost Pines looks at water availability in both Bastrop and Lee Counties as a whole as the Simsboro aquifer is a single hydrological unit; and

Whereas, the State Water Plan shows that the available water in the Simsboro aquifer in Bastrop and Lee Counties at the end of the 50-year planning period will be 4,500 AF per year, which amount reflects that all of the water is effectively permitted; and

Whereas, production of water in excess of 28,000 acre feet per year from Bastrop County will result in more water being removed from the aquifer than is being returned to the aquifer, a condition known as "overdrafting"; and

Whereas, sustained overdrafting will make it economically unfeasible to produce groundwater in Bastrop County; and

Whereas, Bastrop Economic Dev Corp. is of the opinion that the Simsboro aquifer should be protected and conserved so that water from the aquifer will be available to serve the current and future residents of Bastrop and Lee Counties.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY Bastrop Economic Development Corp. THAT:

1. Bastrop Economic Dev Corp. hereby opposes the GBRA's plan to produce water from the Simsboro aquifer in Bastrop and Lee Counties for transporting to the San Marcos - New Braunfels area.
2. BE DC is supportive of all efforts to keep water from the Simsboro aquifer for use for the current and future residents of Bastrop and Lee Counties.
3. Aqua Staff is hereby authorized to take any action necessary to implement the terms of this Resolution.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 23 day of August, 2010.

Bastrop Economic Development Corp.

By: Pat Crawford, Secretary

Steve Mills

ATTEST:

Angela Ryan, Admin Asst.



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August 18, 2010

Mr. Joe Newman
President
Bastrop Economic Development Corporation
903 Main Street
Bastrop, Texas 78602

Re: Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA)/ Simsboro Project

Dear Mr. Newman,

In early 2007, The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority signed a letter of intent to buy water from a large water marketing company holding leases in Bastrop and Lee Counties. GBRA intends to build a pipeline to bring Simsboro Aquifer water to the San Marcos-New Braunfels area. This aquifer is the primary source for water for Bastrop and Lee Counties. The water marketing company in turn has applied to the Lost Pines Groundwater District (LPGCD) seeking permission to withdraw 56,000 acre feet (AF) per year from the Simsboro aquifer. (An acre foot of water is 325,851 gallons). This permit application seeks to pump 30,000 AF/year from Bastrop County and 26,000 AF/year from Lee County.

Prior to the new groundwater availability process, LPGCD issued permits to local users authorizing 43,486 AF/year to be pumped from the Simsboro aquifer in Bastrop County. The currently proposed State Water Plan shows, however, that only 28,000 AF/year are available in Bastrop County. In other words, existing permits already exceed what is shown to be available in the proposed Plan. Additionally, current local usage is increasing. Last year, the total water pumped from Bastrop County was 20,198 AF.

The proposed Plan shows all available water will be needed to support local growth in Bastrop County at the end of 50 years. The GBRA Simsboro Project is requesting an additional 30,000 AF/year pumped from Bastrop County. If this is allowed more than twice the amount available of 28,000 AF/year will be pumped, and the aquifer will be overdrafted. That means more water will be taken out than will come in. Continued overdrafting will ultimately reduce the level of the aquifer to the point it cannot be economically produced in Bastrop County.



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In Lee County, the proposed State Plan shows there is a total of 27,533 AF/year available. At the end of the 50 year planning period there will be 19,777 AF/year available to others after local use.

Standing alone, it appears that there is water availability in Lee County for use by others. However, the Lost Pines GCD looks at the two counties as a whole as the Simsboro aquifer is a single hydrological unit. Based on all of the above numbers, there will be approximately 4,500 AF of water available which may be permitted by LPGCD at the end of the 50-year planning period. Given the accuracy of predicting water availability 50 years in advance, Aqua strongly believes that the available water in both counties is fully permitted.

If the GBRA plan is allowed to be put in place, it will stop economic growth in Bastrop and Lee Counties. There will be no water left available for local use.

Aqua believes that water needed for our future should stay in our community. We have attached a draft Resolution opposing the GBRA Simsboro project, and ask that it be put on your next meeting agenda for approval. Upon passage of this resolution, please send me a copy. John Burke is available to come and make a presentation and answer questions at your meeting if needed. You may contact him at jburke@aquawsc.com or 512-914-3474.

Aqua is sponsoring the Central Texas Water Forum on September 21, 2010 at 6:00 pm in Bastrop. The event has been organized to inform the public of this threat to our local water supply. The event is open to everyone, and we hope to see you there. If you do plan to attend, please RSVP to flanghorne@aquawsc.com

Warmest regards,

Bill Loven
General Manager