

Team Larson Kicks Dirt in Our Faces

Seemingly out of the sky blue, Team Larson used a surprise attack to strafe those people trying to signal San Antonio that building a 142-mile pipeline to a Central Texas rural county named Burleson may be the wrong thing to do.

Team Larson appears to ignore the unpleasant and difficult problems caused by a city not even trying to control its growth but finding it easier to extract money from its citizens to send tentacles of steel and concrete pipelines to less-populated counties in order to confiscate their groundwater. The groundwater is not needed now, but is needed to fuel San Antonio's celebrated growth. But don't worry: San Antonio always makes certain to express their thanks to the unwilling participants.

A rather-famous groundwater lawyer issued the following harrowing statement at a recent Texas House of Representatives hearing: "Why else is all of that groundwater stored in those aquifers if it's not for us to use?" And he was not trying to make a joke – he was dead serious.

The shallowness and cynicism of that statement were almost matched by Team Larson's Op-Ed ["Regional pipeline partnership should be Texas model."](#)

Within a span of 610 words he lauded San Antonio for raiding less-populated counties for their groundwater, praised the boondoggle-wannabe Vista Ridge Project, changed the purpose of groundwater districts to that of being partners with water marketers and thirsty cities instead of working to preserve the aquifers, and threatened to pass legislation outlawing anyone who stood between a city and their rightful aquifers. Not bad.

The only other people to praise the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater District (which by the way happily gave away all of Burleson County's groundwater to one water marketer) as much as Team Larson are the water marketers who have spread the word that Burleson County is just dying to drain their aquifers to make the big cities happy. Who cares about those agricultural counties with fewer voters than one of San Antonio's subdivisions anyway?

Team Larson says the groundwater district in Burleson County did a great job of protecting landowner rights. Again, he does not have a clue. That groundwater district gave away 100% of the available Carrizo-Wilcox groundwater to one water marketer that had leased the groundwater rights for only 8% of the million+ acres in Milam and Burleson counties.

The Vista Ridge Project will pay a few people in Burleson County for the groundwater while 92% of the other landowners will have the privilege of watching their water wells go dry, their land values decrease, their property rights stomped on, and their groundwater make millions for water marketers – all courtesy of an incompetent groundwater district. And Team Larson thinks they are the model groundwater district?

Poof!

And Team Larson says that he doesn't like those rabble-rousers trying to preserve some groundwater for the future generations who will want to live in those irrelevant rural counties – and by gawd he is going to use his power and stop those “un-Texan” water wars by passing laws to outlaw such nefarious activities as trying to ensure aquifers are sustained for the future. He wants us peons to understand that he's running the show and if you don't like it, too bad.

While Team Larson ended his free re-election advertisement by saying that he wants all of us to be nice people and “secure our state's water future” – many of us took that as meaning “pipe all of that groundwater to the big cities and be thankful for the privilege.”

Contributed by: A Groundwater Activist Going Underground, Oct. 2014