

## The Simsboro Aquifer – the Most Endangered Aquifer in Texas Thanks to the Real Estate Lobby in San Antonio

- Fifty years ago, one of the world's largest aquifers – the no recharge Ogallala in West Texas -- was called "drought-proof". Sadly, these claims were wrong. And now West Texas is running out of water because the Ogallala's stored water has been "mined" for water that will never be replaced.
- The same claims of "drought proof" are made today about the slow recharge Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer and its Simsboro formation in Bastrop, Burleson, Lee and Milam counties east of Austin. A slow recharge aquifer is also subject to being "mined" if withdrawals of its stored water indefinitely exceed recharge from rainfall.
- Actual recharge in the Simsboro in Burleson County is less than **2,000 acre-feet per year**, as estimated by the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology. (2,000 acre-feet equals about **652,000 gallons** of water.)
- An alliance of governmental officials and private business interests are pushing for vast withdrawals from the Simsboro. An expensive \$3.4 billion project for a 142-mile pipeline to export **50,000 acre-feet/year** of Carrizo-Wilcox water (primarily from the Simsboro) to San Antonio and new developments along IH-35 is pending before its City Council.
- 50,000 acre-feet/year is equal to about **16.3 billion gallons per year**, and is equal to about **978 billion gallons** over the 60-year San Antonio Water System's planning horizon.
- Lee and Bastrop counties are neighboring counties to Burleson, and have two export projects for groundwater pending for a total of another **91,000 acre-feet** per year from the Simsboro alone. (Withdrawal equal to about **1.78 trillion gallons** over 60 years.)
- Citizens are repeatedly told that we cannot stop 1,000 people from moving to Texas every day, while these "public-private partnerships" lure people to Texas – even with ads on Times Square! San Antonio says it adds 20,000 people a year.
- These projects are only the tip of the iceberg for withdrawals from the Simsboro. However, they will be held accountable for irreversible damage to a precious natural resource if these mega-projects proceed on the basis of mining the aquifer's thousands of years old stored water.
- Rural communities are also at risk for loss or impairment of their water supply, increased or prohibitive cost to reach water after drawdowns, loss of economic opportunity and inability to protect their grandchildren's future.
- San Antonio and IH-35 corridor cities stress they are protecting their own aquifer and their own grandchildren but are risking the Edwards Aquifer recharge and sensitive zones with urban sprawl and unsustainable growth.