

UPDATE:

The San Antonio Water System has concluded their contract negotiations with the Vista Ridge Consortium (Blue Water Systems + Abengoa). A vote by the SAWS board is predicted on September 29.

An article penned by the SAWS Board Chairman and published today in the *San Antonio Express-News* is copied below for your reading convenience.

I will repeat one more time: The Post Oak Savannah Groundwater District made this groundwater deal possible by their reckless and amateurish policies of granting all permit requests and having no concern about how much groundwater is permitted to be pumped.

And to add insult to injury, someone has assured water-marketer Blue Water Systems that Post Oak will make sure that they will be able to keep exporting 50,000 acre-feet/year of our groundwater no matter if existing pumping permits are being cutback.

New information provided by SAWS has now revealed that our groundwater will not only be exported to San Antonio but to anyone who can build a pipeline to their 142-mile pipeline with the present list of cities including San Marcos, Wimberley, Dripping Springs, and Blanco.

Even to this very day, the Post Oak people continue to say, "Permitted groundwater is not what we worry about – we only worry about how much groundwater is being pumped." This universally ridiculed policy has now come home to roost. They never seemed to grasp the concept that people pay for permits to eventually use them to pump groundwater – not just to make the district a 'cash cow' for a select group of people.

And who is going to suffer because of Post Oak's reckless and amateurish policies? That would be "us" and the future generations who try to make a home in Milam and Burleson County.

Even if the San Antonio deal is not approved, other uncontrolled-growth cities along I-35 now understand that we are easy pickings – "the only one that got it right" as the water marketers say.

For a glimpse into our future, eleven years ago Post Oak had the Texas Water Development Board run computer model 03-26 to determine the effects of 20 new Simsboro wells pumping 20% less than what Post Oak has already permitted. For the computer model, the wells were located west of Caldwell where Blue Water Systems' wells will be. (*The computer model report is attached for your information.*)

The computer model results are stunning which is probably why they were kept under wraps for all of these years (I just found them on the Internet last year):

- Initial Simsboro water well levels in Burleson County were between 150 and 250 feet above sea level.
- Within 30 years of adding the new wells, the Simsboro water well levels in Burleson County were between 500 and 600 feet below sea level.
- Burleson County wells dropped 650 to 850 feet in less than 30 years.
- Even Simsboro wells in Waller and Washington County dropped 300 feet because of the extreme amount of pumping programmed in the model.
- Of most concern, Simsboro wells in Milam County (the shallow end of the Simsboro) dropped 400 to 600 feet. This is of great concern because 50 of the 54 state-monitored Milam County Simsboro wells are less than 600 feet deep.
- And this model did not include all of the Simsboro pumping planned by other water marketers.

The point is = Post Oak knew what this amount of Simsboro pumping would do to us eleven years ago and Post Oak kept approving pumping permits including the massive permits for Blue Water Systems. Why?

If SAWS approves the Vista Ridge contract, the San Antonio City Council is predicted to vote on the contract in early November.

The Post Oak rules need to be changed to make the groundwater district “pro-us” instead of “pro-water-marketer.”

Pumping permits are not just meaningless pieces of paper.

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