

BRAZOS G

WATER PLANNING GROUP

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Coryell
Eastland
Erath
Falls
Fisher
Grimes
Hamilton
Haskell
Hill
Hood
Johnson
Jones
Kent
Knox
Lampasas
Lee
Limestone
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Nolan
Palo Pinto
Robertson
Shackelford
Somervell
Stephens
Stonewall
Taylor
Throckmorton
Washington
Williamson
Young

February 12, 2010

Mr. Con Mims, Chair
South Central Texas (L) RWPG
c/o San Antonio River Authority
P.O. Box 839980
San Antonio, Texas 78283-9980

Re: GBRA Simsboro Project

Dear Mr. Mims:

Thank you for your letter dated January 25, 2010, notifying the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group (Brazos G RWPG) of Region L's intentions to include the GBRA Simsboro Project as a recommended strategy in the Initially Prepared 2011 South Central Texas (Region L) Regional Water Plan. As per your letter, this strategy will be used to meet projected needs of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA).

We understand that one source of water for this project is located in the Brazos G Area, specifically the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer System (Simsboro Aquifer) in Lee County. As noted in your letter, this strategy is projected to produce 20,000 acre-feet of water per year (acft/yr) from the Simsboro Aquifer in Lee County for use in the San Marcos area in Region L.

Your letter requested that Brazos G respond to three questions. After discussion of this matter at the Brazos G RWPG meeting held on February 3, 2010, the Brazos G RWPG offers the following responses to the questions posed in your letter.

1) Do the potential groundwater export quantities associated with the GBRA Simsboro Project, in combination with any water management strategies that your region may be recommending, exceed the regional planning estimates of available groundwater in Bastrop County or Lee County during the planning period ending in 2060?

The total groundwater availability from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Lee County is estimated by Brazos G to be 27,533 acft/yr in all planning decades. Please note that the GMA-12 process has not yet determined final Managed Available Groundwater (MAG) estimates for the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer System in Lee

County, and the final MAG could be very different from the estimate adopted by Brazos G. In addition, as you are aware, there is no guarantee that this quantity of water would be permitted for production by the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District, which regulates groundwater use in Lee and Bastrop Counties.

Of the 27,533 acft/yr that Brazos G has estimated to be the total groundwater available from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer System in Lee County, 11,984 acft/yr has been allocated as existing supply to existing uses through 2040. The amount of existing supply allocated to existing uses reduces to 6,547 acft/yr in 2050 and 2060, reflecting a reduction in mining demands. This leaves a total of 15,549 acft/yr available for water management strategies in decades 2010 through 2040, and 20,986 acft/yr available for water management strategies in decades 2050 and 2060. Brazos G has identified and recommended water management strategies to meet local needs in Lee County, which will require supplies of 806 acft/yr in 2010 and 1,209 acft/yr in 2020 through 2060. No other strategies have been identified or recommended to meet these local needs, and these quantities should not be considered as available to the GBRA Simsboro Project.

In addition, the Lake Granger Augmentation (Conjunctive Use) Project, a water management strategy recommended to meet needs in Williamson County, will utilize an average of 31,098 acft/yr, combined, from Lee, Burleson and Milam Counties. There are sufficient supplies in Burleson County to meet this demand, but the aquifer in Lee County is a proximate source that also could provide a large portion of these supplies.

Brazos G recommends that Region L consider that a total of 14,743 acft/yr is available from Lee County for the GBRA Simsboro Project in 2010 through 2040, and 19,777 acft/yr is available in 2050 and 2060. These amounts reflect that the modest demands of the local users in Lee County should be given priority for their local source of groundwater over other users not located in Lee County. If Region L considers that a greater amount of groundwater is available to the GBRA Simsboro Project from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Lee County, then a conflict will exist between Brazos G and Region L.

These amounts also reflect that an alternative source of groundwater for the Lake Granger Augmentation (Conjunctive Use) Project can be developed in Burleson County. As no specific quantity of water has been identified as coming from Lee County for this strategy, no conflict exists at this time between the two regions related to the GBRA Simsboro and Lake Granger projects.

- 2) *Has your region identified alternative water management strategies in the event that the LPGCD issues groundwater production permits for the GBRA Simsboro Project that might limit groundwater available for recommended water management strategies in Bastrop County or Lee County during the planning period ending in 2060?*

Brazos G has identified alternative groundwater supplies for the Lake Granger Augmentation (Conjunctive Use) Project in Burleson County, but has not identified alternative water management strategies for the modest additional quantities (1,209 acft/yr) needed by local users in Lee County.

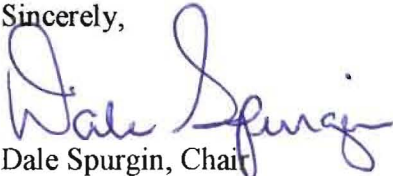
3) *Is it acceptable for the Region L Technical Consultant to communicate and exchange relevant information directly with the Technical Consultant for your region?*

Yes.

Again, thank you for contacting me and making the Brazos G RWPG aware of the GBRA Simsboro Project and its potential affect on the Brazos G Area. As long as the needs of the local water users in Lee County are provided for in both regional water plans by considering the quantity of water available after local needs are met, we do not anticipate that a conflict will exist between our regions.

Should you need additional information or wish to discuss this further, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Dale Spurgin, Chair
Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group

Cc: Trey Buzbee, Brazos River Authority
David Dunn, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Steve Raabe, San Antonio River Authority
Sam Vaugh, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Matt Nelson, Texas Water Development Board
Lann Bookout, Texas Water Development Board
James Kowis, Lower Colorado River Authority
Jaime Burke, AECOM Water