

Region-K – Regional Water Planning Group

07/27/2022

SAWDF Public Comment

Good morning. My name is Andy Wier. I am a resident of Bastrop County and the Executive Director for the Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund, SAWDF. SAWDF works with business, government and landowners in Milam, Burleson, Lee, and Bastrop counties to protect the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer and private property rights in groundwater.

In Bastrop County, the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer intersects the Colorado River and contributes inflows that sustain the river in times of drought. In response to the current conditions, ranging from severe to exceptional drought throughout Region-K, and considering the intimate connection between the Carrizo-Wilcox and the Colorado, SAWDF echoes the requests by the Central Texas Water Coalition, the Travis County Commissioners Court, and the Burnet County Commissioners Court calling for the LCRA to accelerate the update of its Water Management Plan. Long-range conditions have changed since the plan's last update in 2020. The Water Management Plan will play a significant role in your planning process. It is only sensible that the plan should be updated like other demand and supply projections you will use in your planning process.

As Region-K steadily tackles the tasks ahead, SAWDF urges you to emphasize conservation, reuse, and aquifer storage and recovery. Surface water and groundwater are finite resources linked together. Sustainable production of groundwater can protect surface water resources, such as essential, baseline flows in the Colorado River, and sustainable production protects private property rights in groundwater. SAWDF encourages you to include this strategy in the Regional Water Plan.

Thank you.