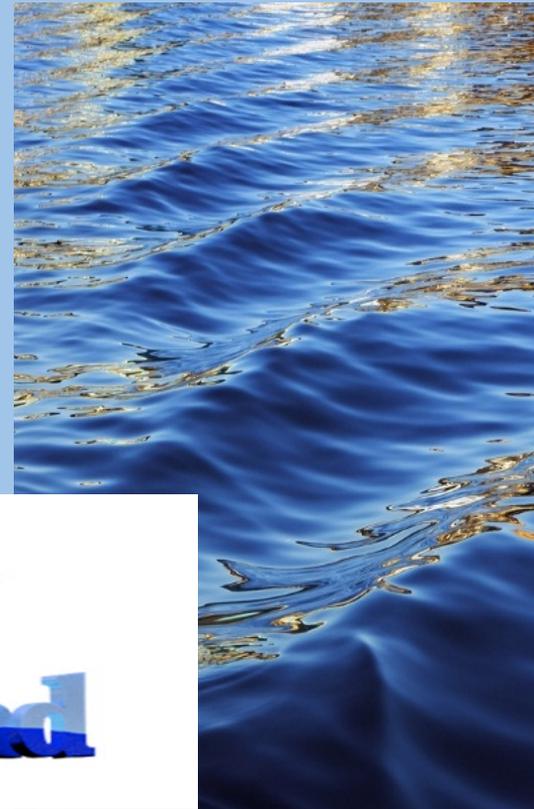


The Siege on the Simsboro

A Cautionary Tale

presented by
Michele G. Gangnes, Esq.
Director, Lee County



**Simsboro Aquifer
Water Defense Fund**

Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund

~~ A Texas non-profit, 501c3
qualified organization. We are based
over the central Carrizo-Wilcox
Aquifer, including the ancient water
of the Simsboro formation, probably
the most coveted water in the State

~~

~~Working to leave a legacy of
aquifers that last forever~~

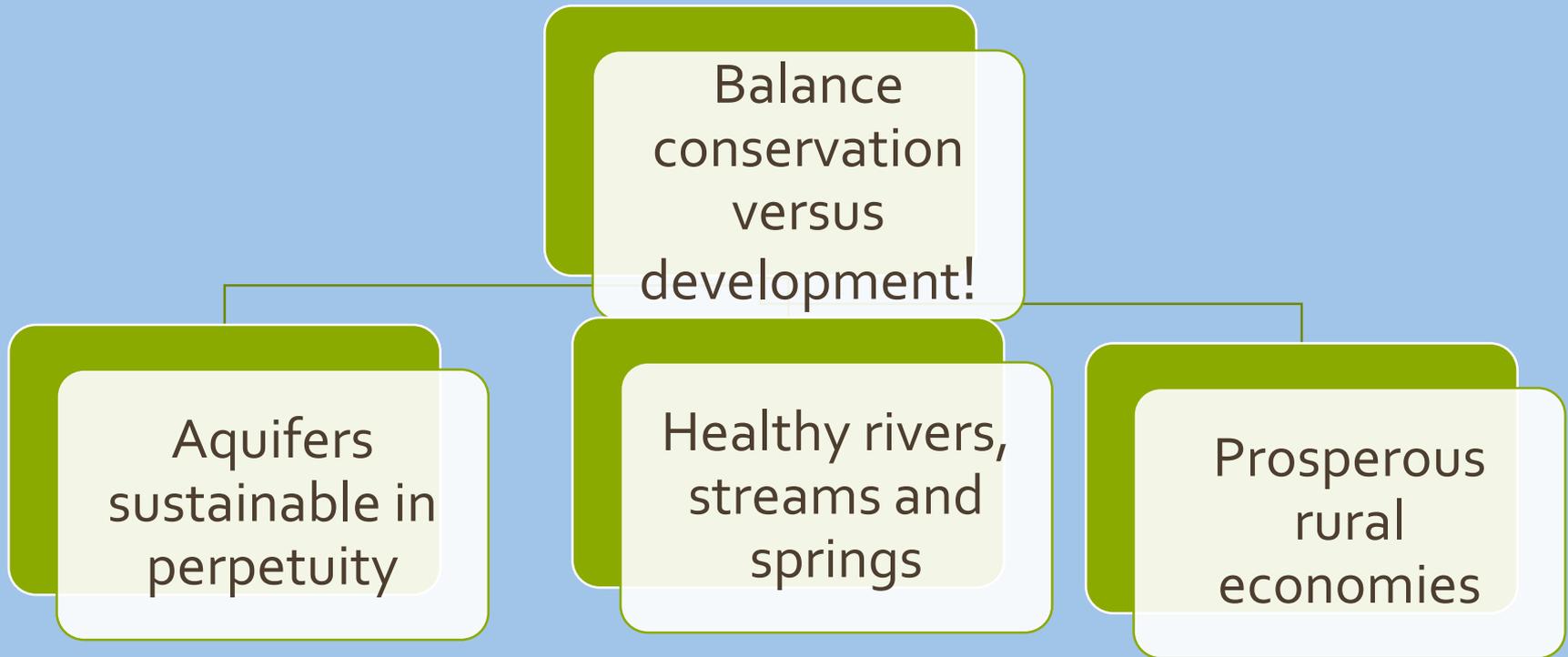


SAWDF's Mission

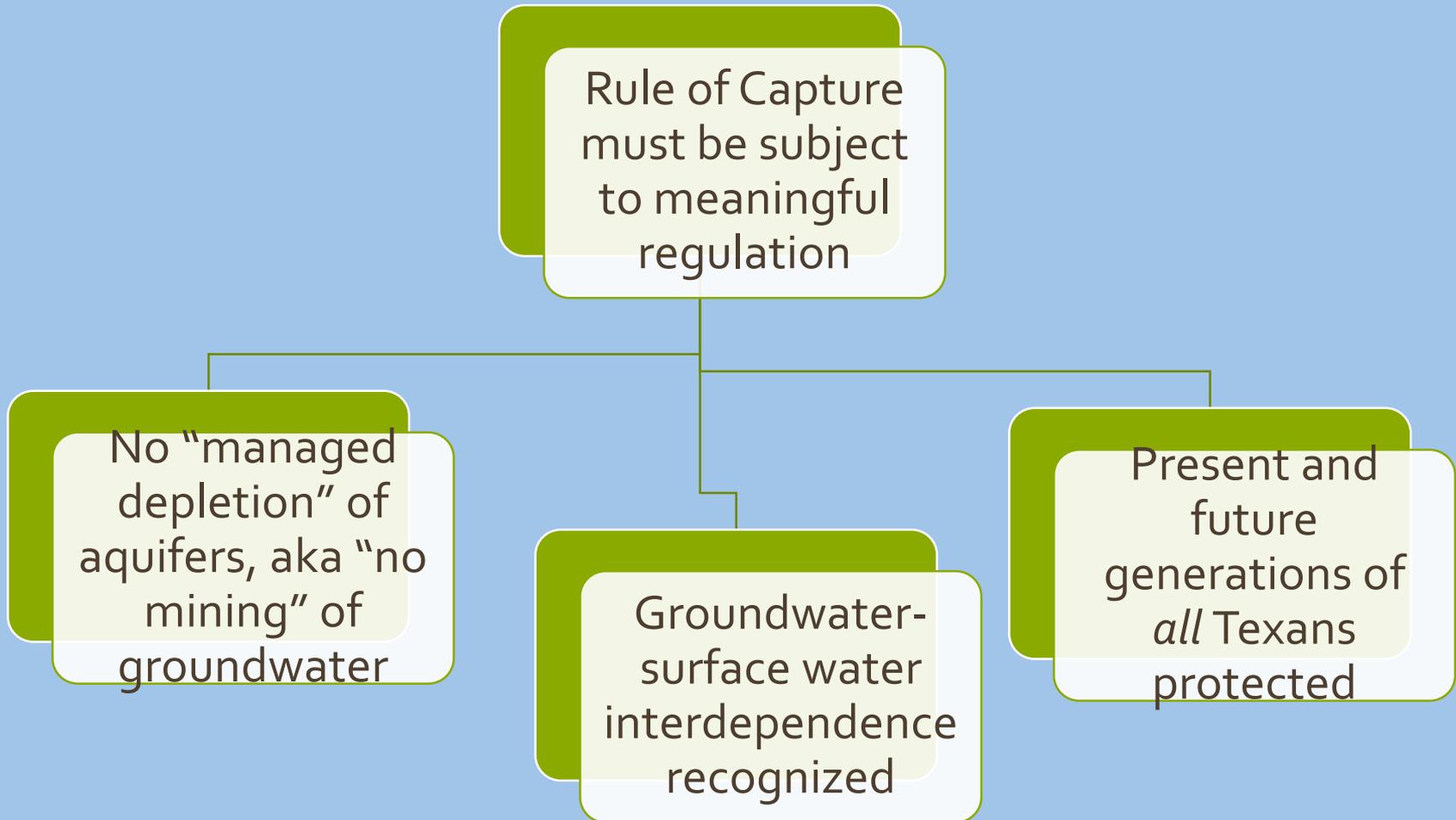
To act for the protection and conservation of the central Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer, especially the Simsboro, and the rivers, streams and springs nurtured by the aquifer.

To defend the rights of those who live over the aquifer and who seek to leave a legacy of sustainable water resources for future Texans.

What does our State Constitution mean when it says "conservation and development of natural resources" is a "public right and duty" ?? -- WE think it means:



How is that balance achieved?



PRIVATE WATER MARKETER'S (AND LCRA'S) "AQUIFER DEPLETION MISSION" IN THE SIMSBORO

"Stake out
huge permits ~
it's a Liquid
Gold Rush!"

One acre-foot
(326,000 gallons)
of groundwater
TODAY is worth *at
least* \$1,000/year!

So what, if we
don't have
customers? ~~ if
we can pump it,
they will come!

No worries, our
lobbyists and
"our" legislators
will take care of us
if we over-pump!

Our State Constitution regards conservation and development of natural resources as a public right and duty --- what does this mean? ~~ THEY think it means:

Rule of
Capture
rules!!

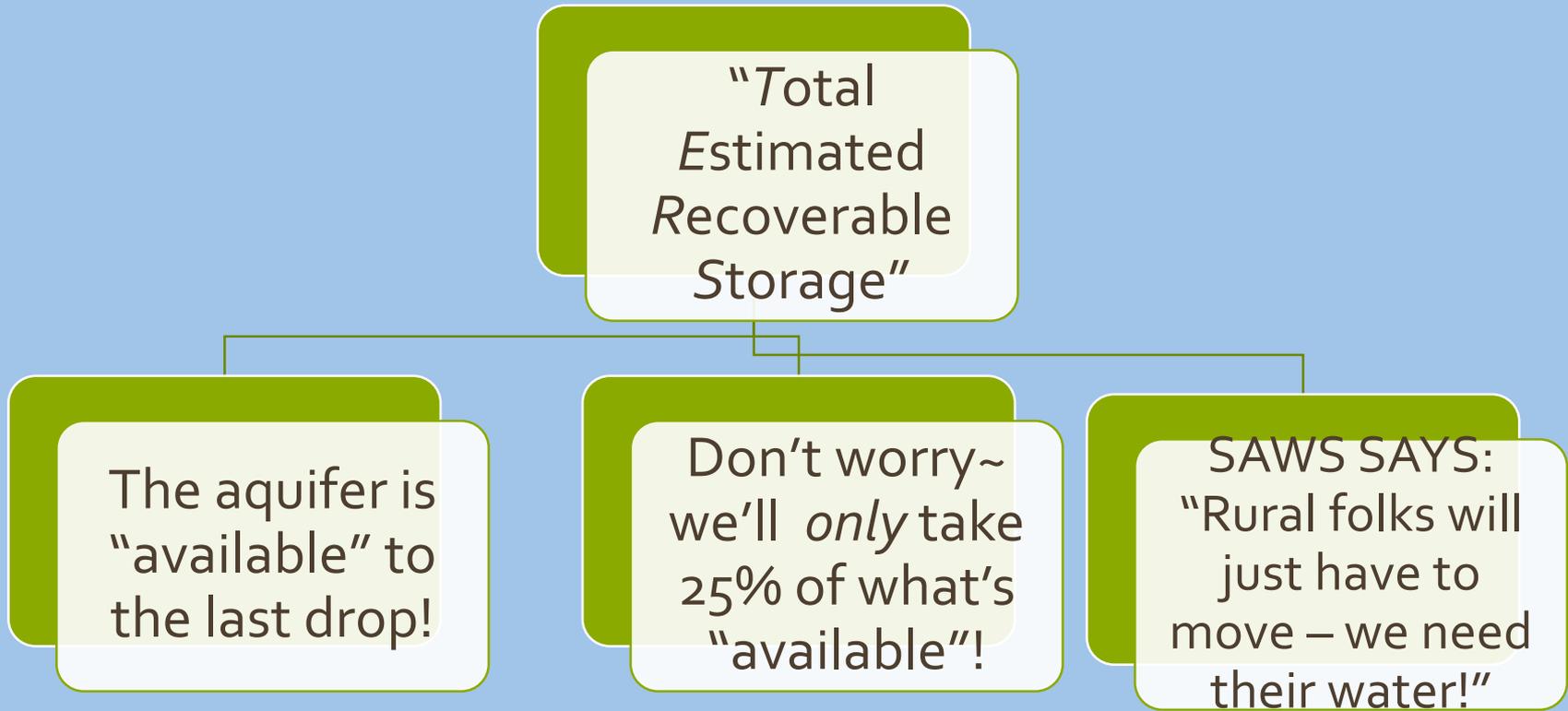
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graph TD; A[Rule of Capture rules!!] --- B[Trust us, the Simsboro is full of water!]; A --- C[Trust us, the Rivers will be fine!]; A --- D["(Who cares about rural economies anyway?)"]
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Trust us, the
Simsboro is full
of water!

Trust us, the
Rivers will be
fine!

(Who cares
about rural
economies
anyway?)

But what about balance and sustainability? What about not exceeding recharge so we don't "mine" our aquifers? It doesn't matter -- "availability" ("TERS") is the name of the game!



Groundwater management areas must consider TERS before setting their “desired future conditions” ~ it’s the only factor that matters to the water marketers!

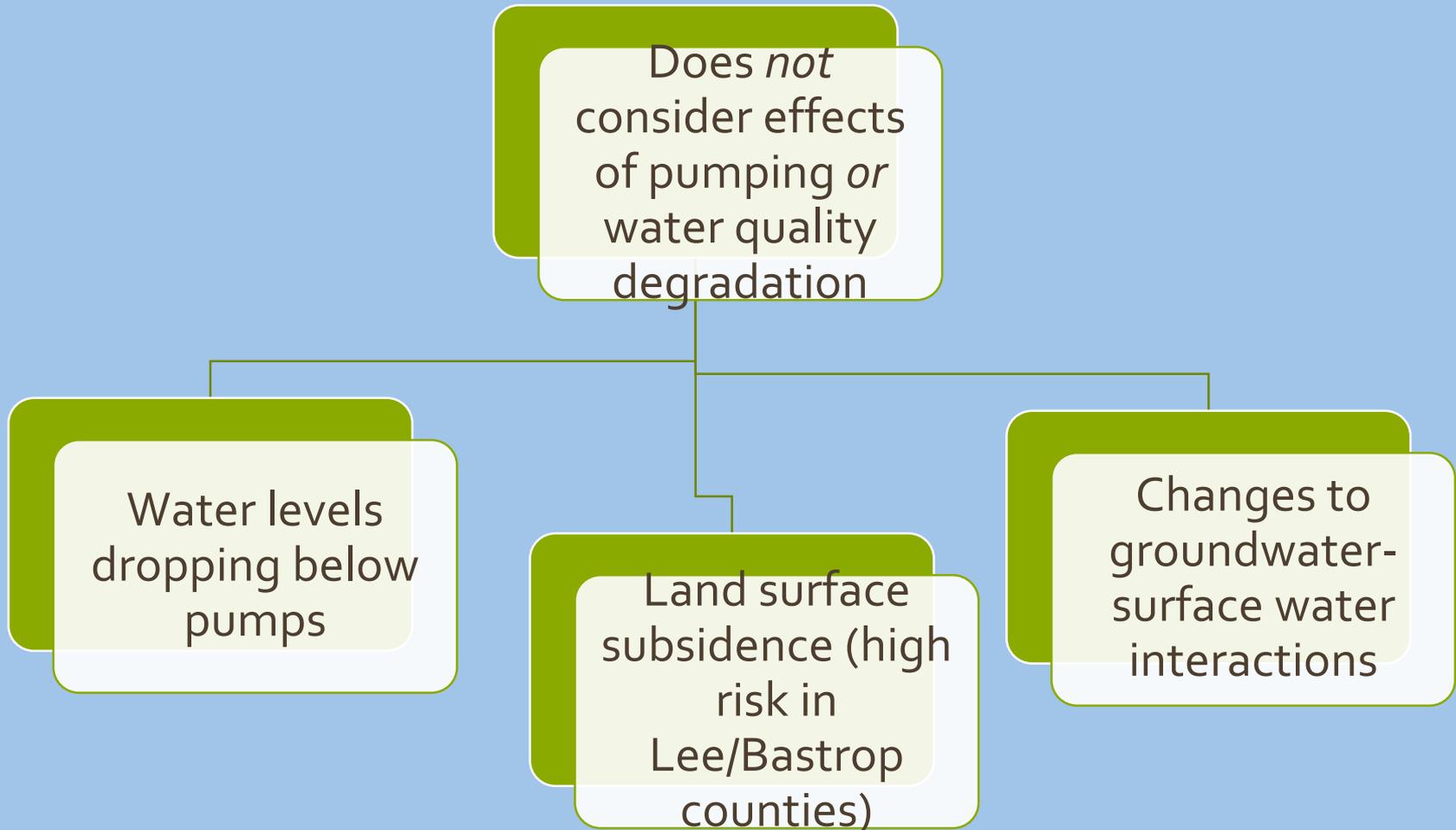
TERS is a set of “recovery scenarios” of 25%-75% of total aquifer volume

Even 25% is an astronomical number for the Simsboro

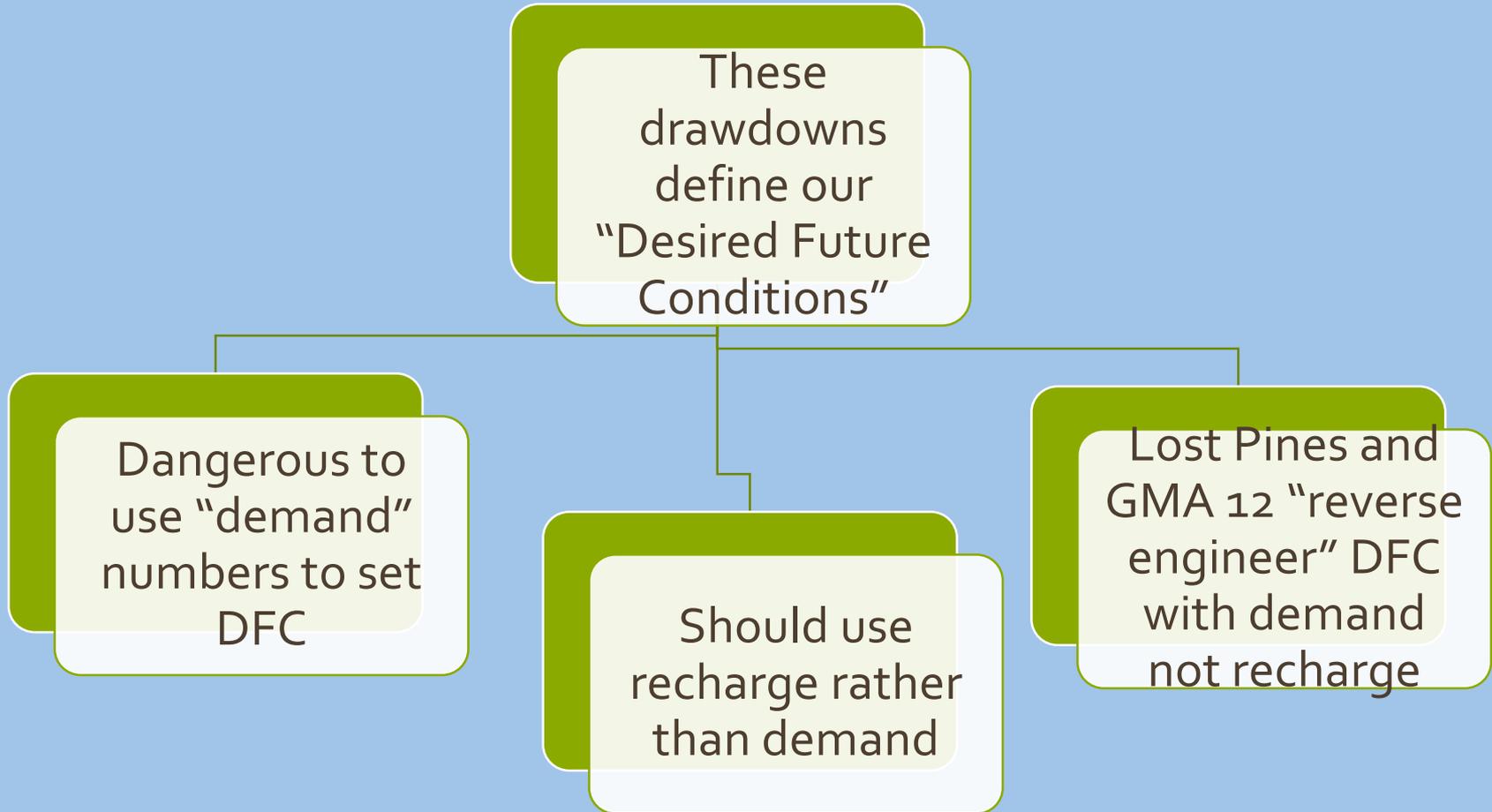
Water marketers say: “Let it be the limit! Forget balance! Forget recharge!”

TWDB: it “may represent” an upper limit on how much can be pumped

What does "TERS" take into account? ... Oops, the question should be "what doesn't it consider?"



Groundwater districts in each groundwater management area must decide what their aquifer should look like in fifty years ~ for us, that's "how much average drawdown can we stand"? 300 feet? 400 feet? How about 600-1200 feet?



When the "TERS mentality" begins to take over the Desired Future Conditions debate ---and the permitting debate --- this is dangerous.

The water marketers have the ear of powerful legislators.

At least one leading Senator seems to think our Lost Pines District ought to look more like the Post Oak District --- the District that gave us Vista Ridge.

None of these issues are settled – but if the Legislature is in session, none of us are safe!

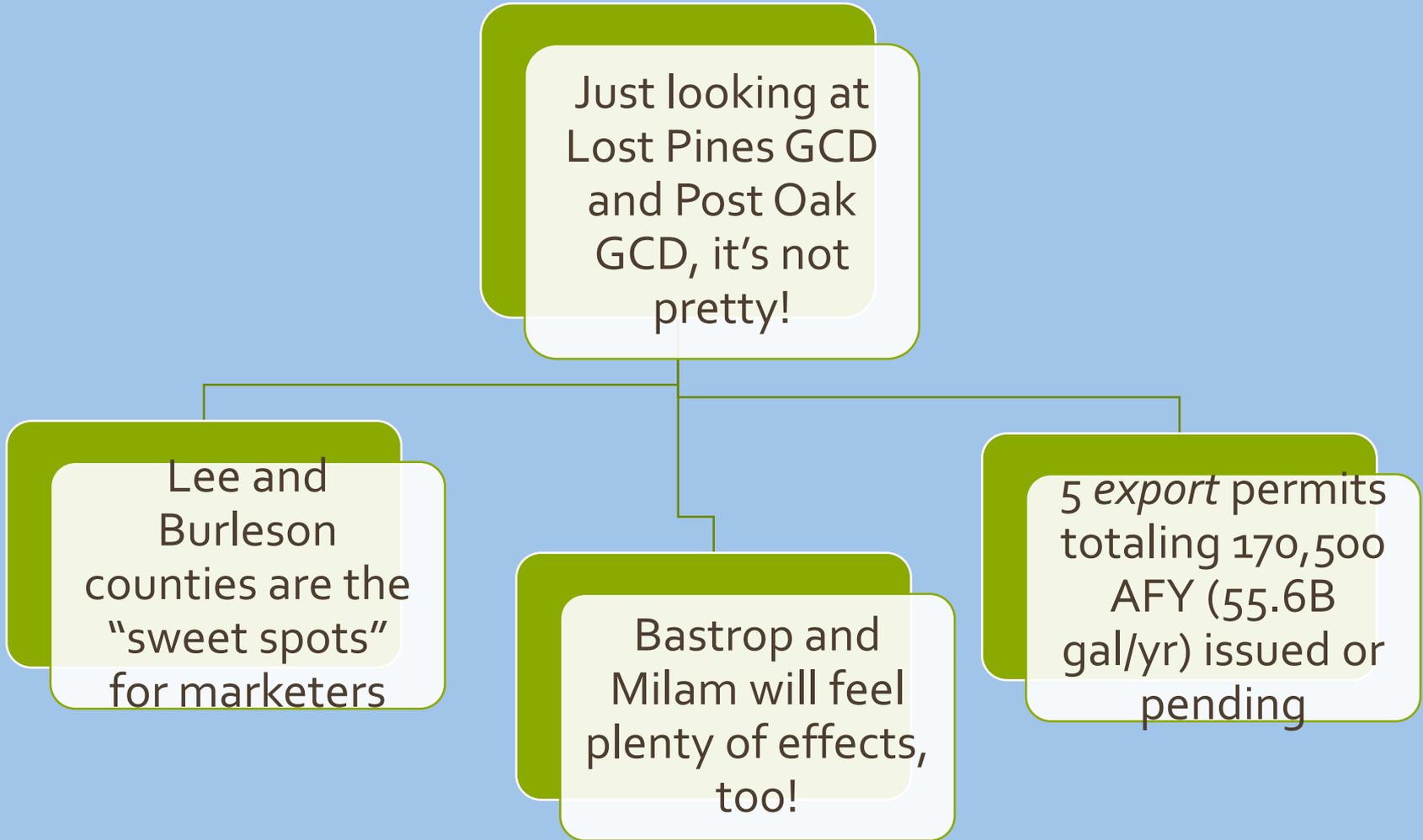
Each session brings new forays into aquifer and rural destruction

“GRIDZILLA” – 60-inch pipeline for Vista Ridge over 7 counties

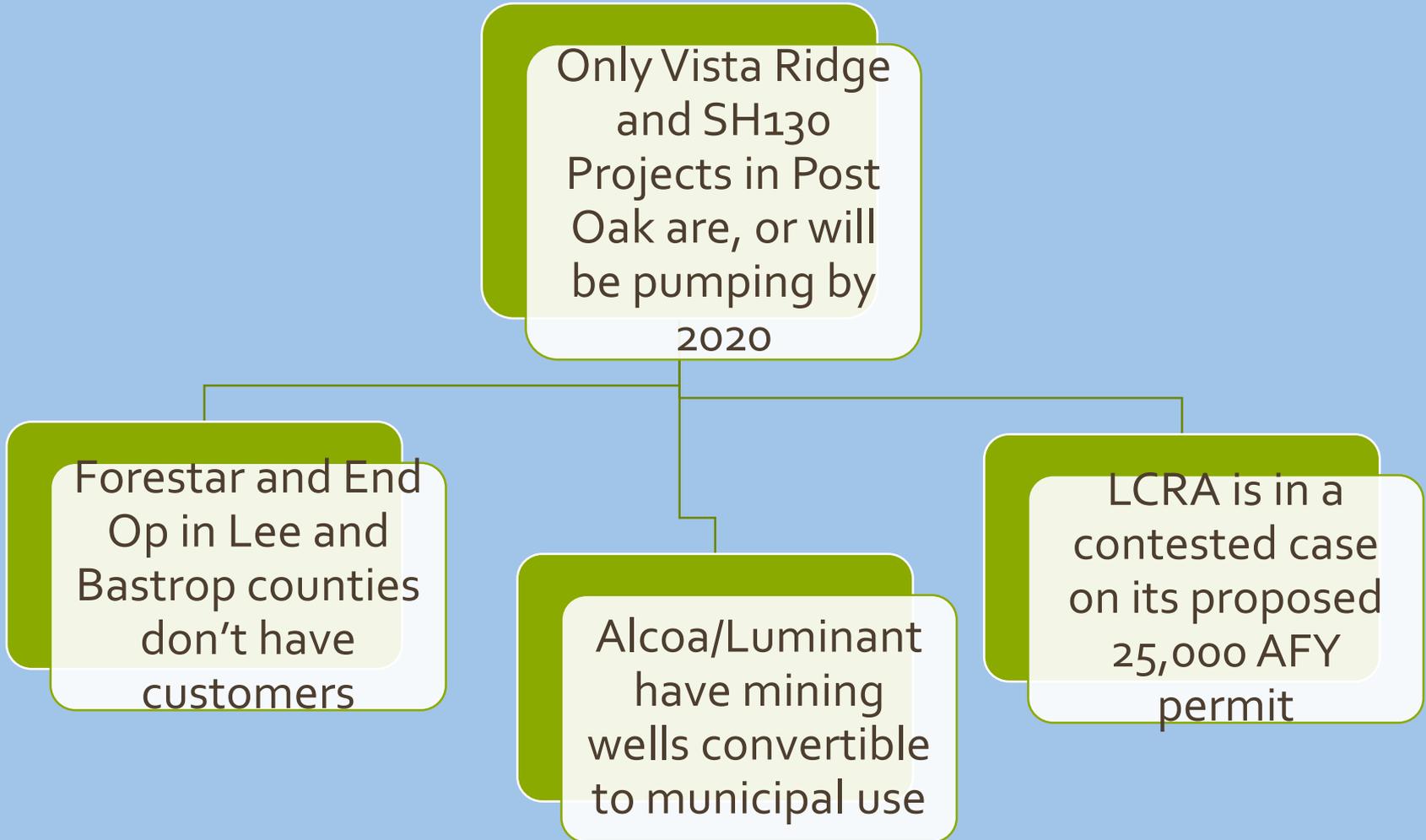
Further erosion of aquifer rights and landowner rights to their groundwater

Guardians of our rivers (LCRA) should get out of groundwater!

As we enter the Session, what is the status of permitting in the Simsboro?

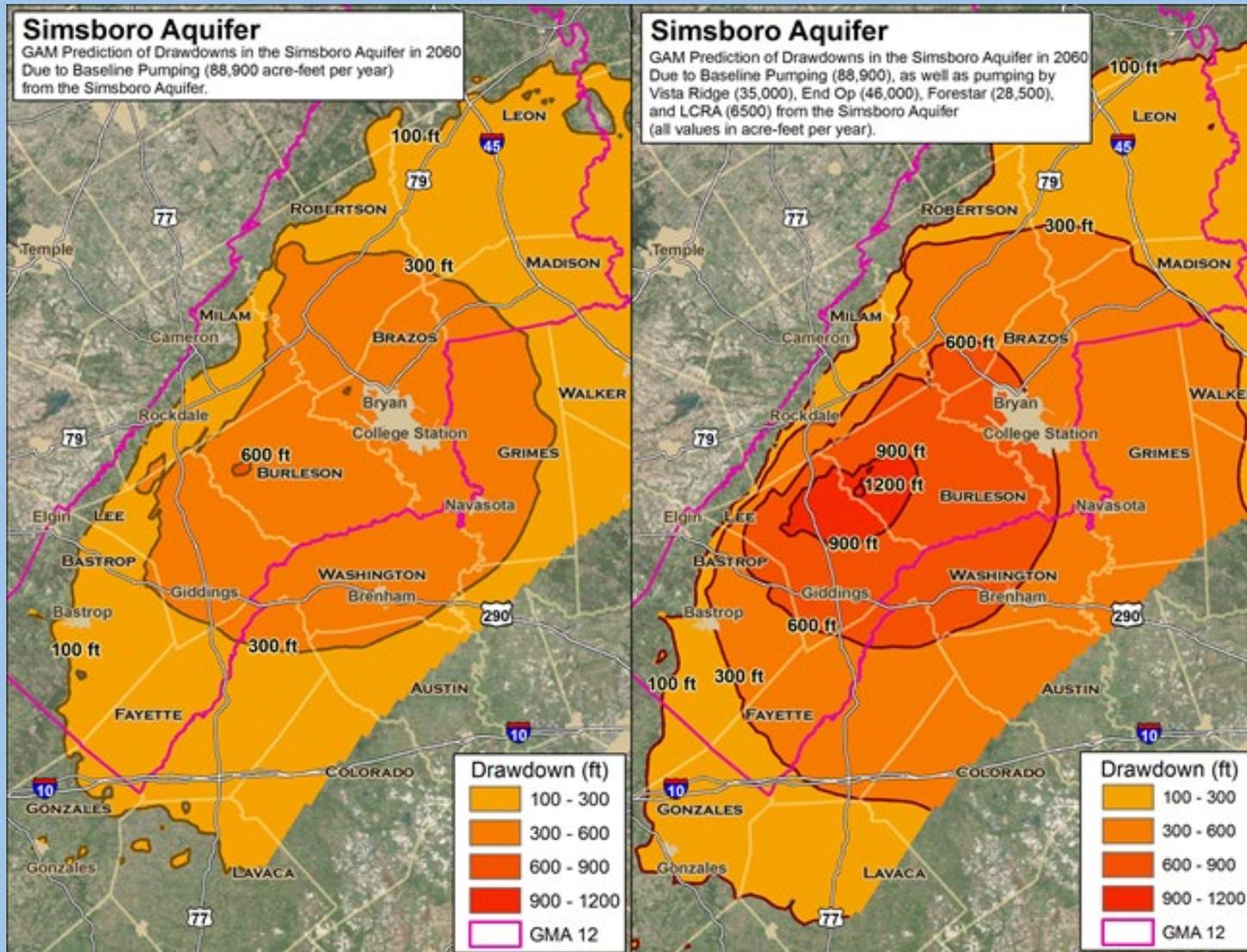


How many acre-feet are being exported now?

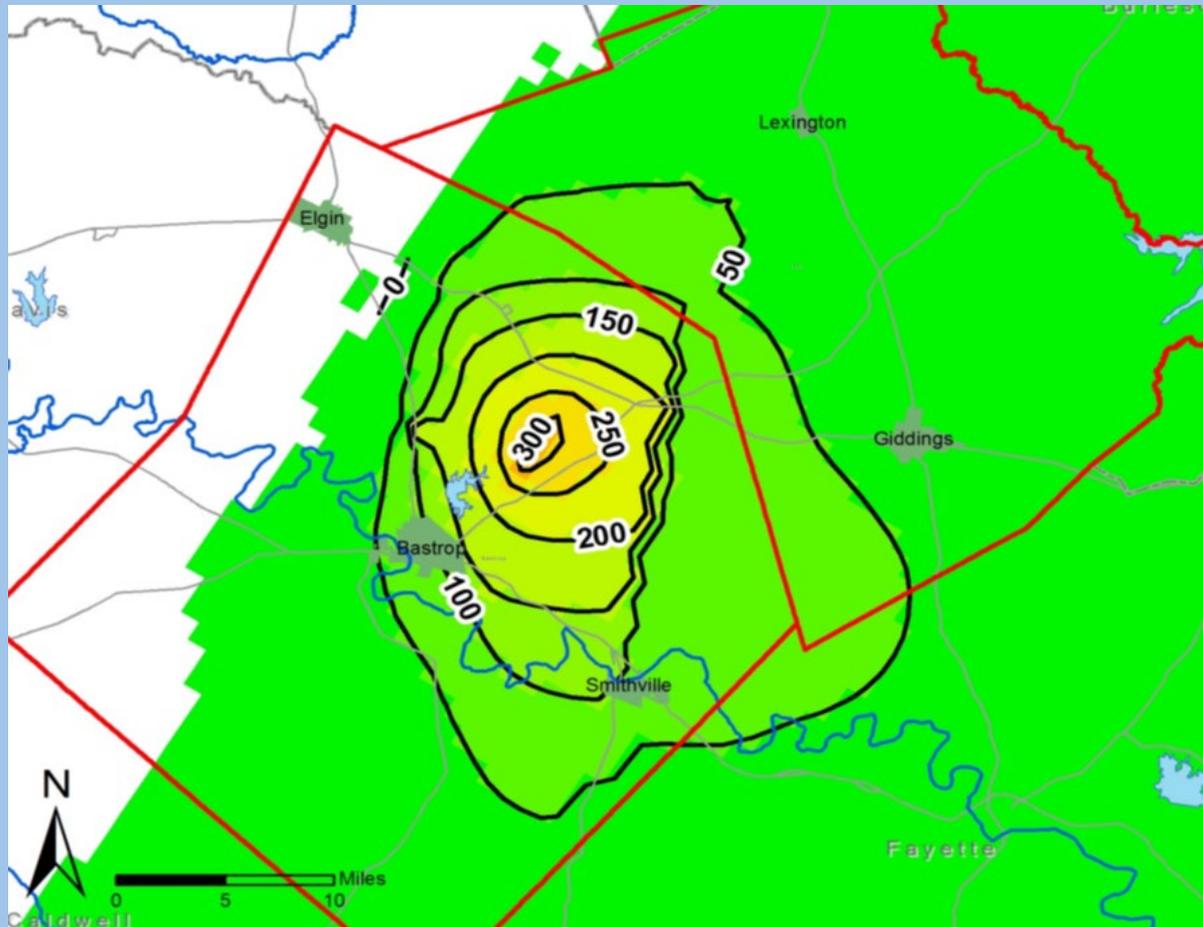


The "Before and After" of the Siege on the Simsboro

(50-year drawdown maps prepared by George Rice)



But wait! The preceding maps do not include projected (additional) 50-year drawdown from LCRA pending permit for 25,000 AFY. (Map prepared by Lost Pines' hydrologist, Donnelly & Associates.)



Our viewpoint is at opposite ends of the spectrum from the for-profit water grabbers---and even from LCRA as the steward of the Colorado River.

Our viewpoint is sometimes even at odds with the State's preferred groundwater regulators --- our groundwater districts.

For the fourth time in its history, the Lost Pines GCD is in the midst of litigation about its permitting.

Three of those times, landowners have been among those asking to contest a large permit – they believe their “3 minutes of public comment” is not enough.

State water law says landowners own the groundwater beneath their land, as a vested property right.

ALL owners of groundwater want a seat at the permitting table...

We know litigation is not the final answer, nor is the answer simply to play defense at the Legislature (even though we have to do both).

The answer is to have our state understand our Liquid Gold can no longer be the "go to" solution for all water needs --- but too many private special interests are hoping to get rich off of groundwater.

We need all Texans to have their voices heard --- starting now--- in order for our aquifers and Texas to both be truly "sustainable in perpetuity".

Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund

P.O. 931

Elgin TX 78621

info@simsborowaterdefensefund.org

Michele G. Gangnes, Esq.

mggangnes@aol.com

512-461-3179

~~ Working for a legacy of aquifers that last forever ~~

Thank you!