

The Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District

I. Results of the Aquifer Conservancy Program

About 800,000 acres of land in this District are over the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. Potentially, about 700,000 of those acres could participate in the Aquifer Conservancy Program. At \$5 per acre, the cost to the District for this participation could be as high as \$3.5 million annually. For longer terms of participation, it's \$10 per acre and the cost to the District for this participation could be as high as \$7 million annually. Post Oak Savannah GCD doesn't have the revenue to pay for this program.

This program also means that Thresholds 1, 2 and 3 are meaningless. If pumping is curtailed, the permitting fees stop. How does Post Oak Savannah pay for this program? According to Gary Westbrook, "It could be decades before we see the benefits of this program."

The Aquifer Conservancy Program actually encourages large water producers to come to this District by its statement that this is how Post Oak Savannah GCD protects landowners. There are no real penalties or rules to stop the pumping in this District. This is what we experienced with Alcoa when they were pumping 30,000 ac-ft/year. The Texas Railroad Commission oversees mining and their rules require, "Protect or replace the rights of present users of surface and ground water." This, alone, was how landowners were protected, not District Rules.

Post Oak Savannah GCD could simply **enact more stringent RULES** to stop the "approve all permits" history; the over-permitting of the aquifers; and the circumvention of existing rules? So far, Post Oak Savannah has **refused** to enact adequate rules. Milam County resident, Mike Conner, developed a more stringent approach and he calls it the "Fair Share" Rule. Post Oak Savannah GCD has made it clear that it doesn't even want to hear this Rule!

II. The Fair Share Rule Summary

- The **Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG)** for the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is 55,000 ac-ft/year. see Groundwater Management Plan, § 8. Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG)
- The **Total Acreage** above the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is about 800,000 acres.
- The Fair Share per acre of land equals (=) the Modeled Available Groundwater, divided by (\div), the Total Acreage.

The Carrizo-Wilcox Fair Share would be 0.06875 ac-ft per acre
A 25,000 acre Fair Share would be about 1,720 ac-ft/year

- Permitted production would occur until the Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) was approached and then the producers exceeding their Fair Share would be cutback first, proportionally, so as not to exceed the Modeled Available Groundwater.