



June 17, 2024

Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District
112 West Third Street
Hearne, Texas 77859

Re: Ensuring Sustainable Management of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer: Our Commitment and Approach

To the Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors and General Manager:

On behalf of the City of Georgetown, I am writing regarding the pending transport permits for the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. We value the opportunity to contribute to this crucial matter, which directly impacts both our community and the broader region.

We recognize the vital role of the Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District in effectively managing the groundwater in Robertson and Brazos counties. As demands for water increase, we understand the mounting pressures on this essential resource statewide. This evolving landscape calls for a comprehensive approach to water management. The City of Georgetown is deeply committed to responsible water management, ensuring that we are not only good stewards of our natural resources but also good neighbors.

Our water utility serves an approximately 400-square-mile area, extending beyond our city limits and Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). State law mandates that we continuously provide water to all users within this developing area, while also limiting our ability to control growth. While our existing sources will continue to serve us, their capacity is fully contracted, and many are vulnerable to drought. In response, we completed an Integrated Water Resources Plan in 2022, how we can meet long-term needs with conservation efforts and diversified water sources.

Our study forecasts water demand in our service area (CCN) will surpass current supply by 2030, prompting a two-year water reservation agreement with EPCOR in August 2023 securing the right to purchase up to 70,000 acre-feet annually (62.5 million gallons per day) from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. This agreement is pivotal to our multifaceted approach to water resource management. The City sees great value in developing a new groundwater supply that has drought proof characteristics. It will allow us to optimize our supply sources and do more with less.

Although we have a reservation agreement for up to 70,000 AFY, we anticipate growing into this water supply over many years with the following water delivery schedule:

2029 – 2033: 13,000 AFY
2034 – 2038: 29,000 AFY
2039 – 2043: 44,000 AFY
2044 – 2048: 58,000 AFY
2049 – 2053: 69,000 AFY
2054 – 2057: 70,000 AFY

While critical, our partnership with EPCOR is just one facet of our broader plan ensuring responsible water management. We anticipate that the groundwater from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer will be a maximum 46% of our water supply. Emphasizing sustainability and diversification, our holistic strategy also integrates conservation and reclaimed water.

Conservation will be an increased priority, comprising 15% of our water management plan. Recent expansions in our initiatives educate customers on conservation and offer increased rebates for xeriscaping, rain barrels, and irrigation efficiency. We've significantly enhanced enforcement, issuing over 3,500 water violation citations so far in 2024 compared to 148 in 2019. Implementation of system-wide Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) will further reduce per capita water demand through better monitoring and enforcement. The City is also committed to a tiered rate structure that further encourages conservation.

We are also investing heavily in reclaimed water, planning to recycle and purify excess water from our five water reclamation plants. A reclaimed water master plan is underway to identify optimal uses for this resource.

The measures outlined above are just a few of the initiatives we are pursuing to responsibly plan for our future. Our customers will be financially invested in the partnership with EPCOR, giving us every motivation to ensure its long-term viability. That's why we are conducting studies to ensure the reliability of our project for the next 90 years. Ultimately, the City of Georgetown will own this project, underscoring our commitment to its success.

We are also dedicated to being a good partner with neighboring communities, aligning our interests and efforts. Our consulting team, which includes many experts shared with neighboring communities, will continue collaborating closely on this project.

Thank you for considering our comments. Responsible stewardship of our natural resources is of the utmost importance to our City leaders. We are confident that our diligent planning and water supply management will ensure a reliable water future for all our communities.

Warm Regards,



Mayor Josh Schroeder