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# Texas water crisis exposes billion-dollar race for groundwater, private plans to extract billions of gallons, growing local resistance, and an outdated legal system that allows scarcity to be turned into financial profit.

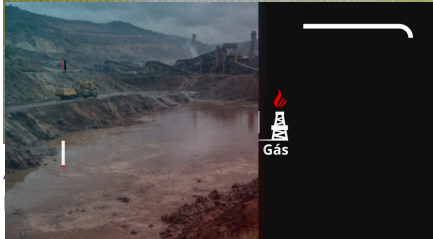
Written by  
**Bruno Teles**

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 Business



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linked to Kyle Bass are putting pressure on the aquifer, while Vista Ridge shows how the same groundwater can generate...  
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The question circulating throughout the eastern part of the state is simple, but unsettling: how far does the... **Texas water crisis** when it becomes a profit opportunity for those who speculate with groundwater.

— ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW —

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Large funds, including Kyle Bass's, have come to see properties with productive aquifers as key assets for a warmer and drier future.

The logic explained by the investor himself is clear: agricultural land with groundwater tends to appreciate in value as scarcity increases.

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This movement doesn't happen in a vacuum. Texas attracts about 1.500 new residents a day, driven by tax incentives and business migration.

At the same time, the state's water resources plan is considered insufficient by critics.

In this planning vacuum, **The water crisis in Texas opens up opportunities for private projects that promise to bring water from areas of "high concentration" to regions of "extreme need," but which concentrate control in the hands of a few.**

**Who is the investor and what is at stake for the rural neighbors?**



ranger to profiting from crises. He has already amassed hundreds of millions of dollars betting against



Now, it is targeting the groundwater of East Texas as the next turning frontier.

Their plan involves creating a business structure capable of raising capital, drilling high-capacity wells, and selling long-term contracts to large cities facing declining reservoirs.

For neighbors like rancher John McCall, who lives on a century-old family property next to Bass's land, the calculation is different.

What is at stake is not just the value of the hectare, but the continuity of a rural way of life based on wells, green pastures, and small-scale farming.

**Residents report a real fear of seeing orchards, livestock, and homes become uninhabitable if aquifer levels drop to the point where household pumps start drawing air and mud, as has already happened in other regions of the state.**

**The Capture Rule and the power of whoever has the strongest bomb.**



The legal background of **Texas water crisis** It is a doctrine that is more than a century old: the Rule of Capture.

Since 1904, state law has stated, in practical terms, that a landowner can pump as much groundwater as they wish within their property without being obligated to compensate neighbors whose wells dry up as a result of this pumping.

A description given by a local senator sums up the spirit of the rule: whoever has the most powerful bomb wins.

In practice, this means that a large investor can legally install high-capacity wells, extract billions of gallons per year, and sell it to distant cities, even if this drastically reduces the water available to smaller properties nearby.

**A The water crisis in Texas, combined with the Capture Rule, produces a scenario in which scarcity ceases to be a collective problem and becomes a tool for concentrating power, benefiting those who can hire expensive technicians, lawyers, and lobbyists.**

### **Groundwater districts, aquifer science, and force asymmetry.**

In response to this model, groundwater conservation districts were created, local entities with the mission of planning how much can be pumped from each aquifer without irreversibly compromising its levels.

## (1) Earth 3D Map

Start



These districts hire hydrologists, conduct modeling, and organize public hearings.

In the case of the Bass project, a study indicated that the planned extraction would far exceed the current total consumption of several rural counties, risking impacting connected rivers such as the Trinity River, which supplies Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston.

The problem is that these districts operate with limited budgets, must choose between funding technical studies or defending themselves in lawsuits, and face, on the other side of the table, investors with specialized legal teams.

**While local representatives call for decisions based on hydrogeological data, private groups can hire their own experts to produce reports favorable to the projects, deepening the asymmetry of technical and political power within the Texas water crisis itself.**

### **Vista Ridge as a warning: when pumping lowers well levels.**

jects, residents of eastern Italy look to another point on the map: the Vista Ridge gas pipeline, valued at



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The grid contains 30 cards, each with a day number and a list of exercises. For example, Day 1 includes: 18 Walking Lunge, 35 Close-Grip Curt, 20 Dumbbell Squat, 10 Jump Squat, and 13 Reverse Curt. The exercises are repeated and varied throughout the 30-day period.

This system supplies approximately 20 percent of the water consumed in San Antonio, pumping significant volumes from an aquifer in rural counties. For those living near the wells, the experience has become a case study on the hidden costs of intensive pumping.

Small farm owners reported that, after Vista Ridge began operating, well levels dropped tens of meters in just a few months, requiring significant investments to lower pumps and deepen drilling.

In one case, the downgrade cost a family around \$10, jeopardizing the finances of retirees.

**Based on this precedent, the water crisis in Texas ceases to be a future projection and becomes a reality in which large pipelines guarantee urban supply, while rural communities cope with sunken wells, high bills, and permanent insecurity.**

## Politics, lobbying, and attempts to curb large-scale pumping.

Faced with the pressure of **Texas water crisis** Lawmakers from rural eastern regions, such as Cody Harris and Robert Nichols, attempted to pass a two-year moratorium on Bass's project to allow for more detailed studies of its impact on the aquifer.

**HOW MUCH YOU SHOULD WALK TO LOSE 30 LBS**

AGE: 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-80

HEIGHT: 5'3", 5'4", 5'5", 5'6", 5'7", 5'8"

WEIGHT: 190, 210, 243, 267, 287, 301

GOAL WEIGHT: 120, 134, 147, 153, 166, 173

	BEGINNER	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
HEIGHT 190	210	243	267
5'3"	30	32	36
5'4"	29	32	35
5'5"	28	31	35
5'6"	28	29	34
5'7"	27	28	32
5'8"	26	27	31

**CALCULATE**

An 11-hour hearing publicly exposed the clash between residents concerned about the survival of their properties and the investor defending his legal right to extract water within the limits of the Capture Rule.

The moratorium was eventually withdrawn in the Senate amid intense lobbying. The bill was shelved, which increased the pressure on local groundwater districts, now responsible for assessing strategic licenses for the future of the entire region.

In a recent decision, one of these councils opted to overturn previous votes and reopen the administrative review of Bass's drilling application, halting the plan's implementation for the time being.

**The episode shows how the water crisis in Texas has turned into a legislative battleground, where victories and defeats are decided both in the courtroom and in lobbying offices.**

## When groundwater becomes a line of credit and an instrument of pressure.

tion of a multi-billion dollar fund to invest in public water supply systems, including replacing old pipelines r.

# (1) Earth 3D Map

Start



SatelliteView

In cities like San Antonio, losses in aging networks are comparable to the entire volume that arrives via large private pipelines, exposing a contradiction: **The water crisis in Texas is exacerbated not only by the lack of water, but by the way it is managed, distributed, and priced.**

Meanwhile, investors continue to raise funds for large-scale extraction projects. Companies linked to Bass have already raised more than \$180 million from clients interested in financial returns linked to water.

With each new regulatory dispute, it becomes more evident that groundwater is being treated as an asset that can be mortgaged, securitized, and used as collateral, even though it is a finite resource that sustains entire communities.

## Conclusion: Texas water crisis, private profit, and collective choice.

A **Texas water crisis** It revealed something that goes beyond falling reservoirs and pressured aquifers.

He presented a model in which the law allows those with more capital, better legal counsel, and more powerful pumps to transform scarcity into a source of profit, while rural neighbors fear losing the water that sustains their homes, crops, and livestock.

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**CALCULATE**

Groundwater districts are trying to impose scientific limits, but they operate in the shadow of expensive processes, aggressive lobbying, and a century-old rule that favors large extractors.

Given this scenario, the discussion ceased to be merely technical and became ethical and political.

If projects like Kyle Bass's move forward, cities could receive guaranteed water through long-term contracts, while **rural counties** They face downgraded wells, rising costs, and constant uncertainty.

In your view, who should have priority over groundwater in a water crisis in Texas: investors who can finance large pipelines to cities, or rural communities that have depended for generations on these aquifers to live on their own land?



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