

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-09
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF UVALDE, TEXAS OPPOSING EXPORTATION OF
GROUNDWATER RESOURCES FROM THE REGION

- WHEREAS**, the Southwest Texas region (“Region”) is an arid, semi-desert country subject to reoccurring droughts that are the norm rather than the exception, and
- WHEREAS**, surface and groundwater supplies in the Region suffer in drought conditions, as recently evidenced by the failure of numerous domestic wells in southern Uvalde County, the drying up of the spring fed Leona River, the near failure of Las Moras Springs in Kinney County, historic low lake levels at Amistad Reservoir, and the continuing decline in elevation of the Carrizo Aquifer in Dimmit and La Salle counties, and
- WHEREAS**, groundwater levels in the Carrizo Aquifer fell, significantly, in 2010-2011, with one Carrizo Aquifer well in La Salle County dropping 136 feet, underscoring the need for further studies in Dimmit and La Salle counties to better understand the hydrology of the aquifer, and
- WHEREAS**, surface water resources in the Region are over appropriated and of limited availability to support future growth in the Region, and
- WHEREAS**, groundwater resources in much of the Region are under pressure from drilling activities and production associated with the Eagle Ford shale, and
- WHEREAS**, cities and towns throughout the Region are experiencing extraordinary growth and increasing demands for water due to the Eagle Ford activities that are anticipated to continue into the future, and
- WHEREAS**, as the population of the San Antonio metropolitan area expands, there is increasing interest in capturing large quantities of groundwater from resources relied upon by its rural neighbors, and
- WHEREAS**, the San Antonio Water System is considering transportation of large quantities of groundwater from the Carrizo Aquifer in Dimmit County and from the Edwards- Trinity Aquifer in Val Verde County, and
- WHEREAS**, exportation of large amounts of groundwater from aquifers within the Region could potentially decrease or eliminate spring flows, reduce surface flows with possible adverse effects on downstream surface water rights and water supply facilities, and adversely affect groundwater supplies needed for current and future domestic, municipal and agricultural uses within the Region, and
- WHEREAS**, evidence that our knowledge of groundwater hydrology in the Region is lacking is found in an investigation of the Western Edwards-Trinity Aquifer (January 2012 Rev.) by

Southwest Research Institute, concluding that Val Verde County is one of the counties in the study having the greatest uncertainty in the water budget assessments, and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Water Alliance is an organization that was originally formed to protect the waters in the western portion of the Edwards Aquifer that our Region depends on and is dedicated to preserving the groundwater resources of the communities, the agricultural base and economics many areas are based on, and the continued need to vigilantly protect the water within the Region for the benefit of the Region, and

WHEREAS, until the consequences of exporting large quantities of groundwater from aquifers in the Region are better understood, it is prudent to oppose such exportations and any action designed to facilitate such exportations.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED PARTICIPANTS IN THE SOUTHWEST WATER ALLIANCE THAT:

1. We oppose exportation of groundwater resources from the Region when such exportation could reasonably be expected to reduce the availability of groundwater resources that are needed for current and projected domestic, agricultural, municipal, industrial, recreational and other beneficial uses within the Region.
2. We encourage more studies to better understand groundwater resources in the Region, the interconnection of groundwater and surface water resources, and the economic, social, and environmental consequences of exporting large quantities of groundwater from the Region.
3. In view of all of the above, we specifically oppose the exportation of large quantities of groundwater from Dimmit and Val Verde counties, and any exportation from the Uvalde Pool to the San Antonio Pool as is being requested and considered by the San Antonio Water System, until such time as the environmental, social and economic impacts on the Region are better understood.
4. We encourage dialog and cooperation among all parties involved in or potentially affected by groundwater exportations from the Region to help achieve water supply programs that maximize benefits to all and minimize harm done.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of November, 2013.


J. Allen Carnes, Mayor

Attest:


Susan M. Conley, City Secretary