



**SIMSBORO AQUIFER WATER DEFENSE FUND  
(SAWDF)**

[www.simsborowaterdefensefund.org](http://www.simsborowaterdefensefund.org)

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

***DONATE NOW, on the SAWDF website,  
or send checks to SAWDF at P.O. Box 690, Elgin TX 78621-0690***

Please attend the hearing on Wednesday, October 18, 1:30 pm, Bastrop County Courthouse Annex, 804 Pecan, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, courtroom of the Honorable Judge Carson Campbell. Visit ***StopWaterGrab.org*** for reports and videos for news updates.

You know the importance of protecting our Central Texas aquifers for future generations. Your financial assistance to support a specific SAWDF project to benefit all Texans is respectfully requested.

What makes our efforts worthy of your consideration? For starters, we are a local, grass-roots, rural-based group --- in other words, ***we are you and you are SAWDF***. The members of SAWDF's Board of Directors are your neighbors.

SAWDF is assisting groundbreaking, water-related litigation that will set important state-wide precedents to ***protect our aquifers, our rivers, and landowners' property rights in their groundwater, especially the right to conserve their water for future generations***. We urgently need funds to fight this legal battle.

- Water marketers have bought rights to pump massive amounts of groundwater from thousands of acres in Central Texas counties, for export to cities along I-35. ***Just five huge projects pumping or planned for Lee, Bastrop, Milam and Burleson counties will permanently remove almost 51 billion gallons of water per year, with no firm ending point.***
- ***SAWDF's current priority*** is to help fund a legal challenge to a 2016 permit from Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District to **Recharge Water (formerly, End Op)**, to drill 14 deep wells in Lee and Bastrop counties and pump up to 46,000 acre-feet per year from the coveted Simsboro Aquifer.
- Lost Pines GCD ruled ***four landowners had no right to participate as parties in the contested case hearing for the permit*** ---three individuals and (over) ➔

- the conservation group Environmental Stewardship were denied due process to make their case about harm the permit would do to the region's aquifers, landowners' property interests, and the Colorado River.
- The landowners should be allowed to participate in a new hearing.
- The landowner appeal of Lost Pines' ruling will be heard Oct. 18 at 1:30 p.m., Bastrop Courthouse Annex, First Floor Courtroom, 804 Pecan Street.
- We expect Judge Carson Campbell to accept jurisdiction over the appeal, and he could also decide that the landowners were improperly denied their right to oppose the permit, causing a restart of the contested case hearing.

Our goal is to change how groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) evaluate mega-pumping permits, and to preserve the rights of landowners who choose to conserve their groundwater and sustain our aquifers. The GCD permitting process should, but currently does not, adequately consider adverse effects on non-applicant landowners, aquifer conservation and preservation, surface water impacts, and other environmental and economic concerns when they issue permits.

We anticipate a favorable court ruling, but either way we will keep fighting and will require a lot of work from our legal team, including Environmental Stewardship's premier Texas environmental law firm and local attorneys, including two SAWDF directors who provide *pro bono* assistance to the individual landowners. (SAWDF itself does not provide direct legal representation).

***SAWDF's Fall 2017 fundraising campaign is critical if we want to continue protecting Central Texas water resources, as we have done with donations received since we began operations in 2016. We have an opportunity to obtain significant grants that require matching funds from donors like you.***

We administer SAWDF with virtually 100% volunteer efforts, maximizing our ability to currently fund the "End Op litigation".

***We need your help -- whether you are a landowner or not, you and your grandchildren drink water! Your contributions to SAWDF, a "501(c)(3)" organization, are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.***

For more information, contact SAWDF director Michele Gangnes at 512-461-3179 or at [mggangnes@aol.com](mailto:mggangnes@aol.com).