

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

Hello, my name is Jordan Furnans, and I'm a consulting engineer and hydrogeologist. I've been working to develop Texas's water resources for 25 years, and have been supporting the Legacy Water Supply Corporation in Webb County since 2021. I'm here today to stress that the water resources of Webb County are not properly represented in the current GMA-13 proposed DFCs, and Webb County will be developing water projects using groundwater over the next few years. There is water available from the Carrizo Aquifer, which is the same aquifer that is used often within the Wintergarden GCD. Modeling I've performed and that performed by GMA-13's hydrogeologist bill Hutchison show that the water is available and accessible to the population in Webb County.

The modeling also shows pumping in Webb County will lower the artesian pressure within the aquifer in Dimmitt and LaSalle County. Just as the modeling shows pressures in Webb County are affected by pumping in Dimmitt and LaSalle County.

This connectedness of water levels in all three counties makes it imperative that DFCs governing water production in the counties actually reflect the pumping that will occur in those counties in the future. Wintergarden will have difficulty meeting DFCs currently established by GMA-13 using artificially low pumping from Webb County.

Legacy WSC is developing the groundwater project in central Webb County. The project is occurring, and will be developing water soon. Yet the GMA-13 models don't include this water, making the entire modeling effort for DFCs scientifically ridiculous and inaccurate. We are asking that GMA-13's modeling include the historical pumpage for Webb County (approx. 6,400 acre-ft) and 20,000 acre-ft/year for the Legacy WSC project. That is a reasonable amount we expect to develop in the next few years.

Wintergarden, rightly or wrongly, has been delegated responsibility for assessing what Webb County pumpage is included in GMA-13's modeling. I presented modeling results to this board back in April, and the board at that time voted to include the 26,000+ acre-ft/year modeling in the GMA-13 process. Then a few days later, the Wintergarden board changed its mind and rescinded their previous vote. I ask you now to reverse that rescission, and re-instate the 26,400 acre-feet/year pumpage for Webb County. This pumpage will occur, and thus should be included in the DFC process if the process is to be meaningful.

David Earl, the attorney for LWSC, has provided your interim GM with copies of the public comment we are submitting to GMA-13, as well as a copy of the lawsuit they are going to file should DFCs not be re-adjusted. Officials from The City of Laredo, Webb County, and other elected officials have added their support to this potential lawsuit. Mr. Earl can give you more of the details - he's right now out in the parking lot on a call with Gov. Abbott. We'd like to avoid filing the lawsuit and having everyone go through that process. Hence we urge Wintergarden to reconsider its position regarding Webb County pumpage in the current GMA-13 process. The Board received the comments without discussion and thanked Mr. Furnans for his presentation.