



LCCN Testimony

GMA 14 Joint Planning Committee Meeting

Regarding the Development of DGMA14 DFC's

May 28, 2015

My name is Michael Massey. I represent the Lake Conroe Communities Network (LCCN), Montgomery County's community engagement group. We seek to understand, influence & champion coordinated decision making of water management authorities for the specific health, quality and economic benefit of the citizens of County.

Details regarding our positions on the issues surrounding Lone Star's pending 2016 groundwater restrictions in Montgomery County are available on our website: www.LakeConroeCN.com. LCCN completed its basic research in April on this matter and used its findings to launch a county wide citizen education program that began with well attended Town Hall meetings the end of April. In concert with its education program, it formulated a community wide Petition Campaign calling for the suspension of pending regulations. It is in the process of pursuing signatures on that Petition from citizens all across Montgomery County.

I am here today to make you aware of selected LCCN findings and current activities because they have a profound impact on GMA 14 and its processes for establishing DFC's.

Findings

1. No Depletion: The Gulf Coast Aquifer has been, is and realistically will remain full for the foreseeable future without any restrictions on use
2. High Replenishment Rates: field measured Aquifer storage over the past 60 years of large-scale usage shows that Gulf Coast Aquifer replenishment rates far exceed (by a factor of 10) any attempts so far made to estimate them through simulations.
 - a. Usage rate of 400,000 to 600,000 ac-ft/yr
 - b. Over time, net replenishment rates fully match production rates; the Aquifer system remains full.
2. Increasing well static water depth is a good thing: hydraulic head drives groundwater to a well and enables production. More hydraulic head enables more water production. There is plenty of untapped hydraulic head in the Gulf Coast Aquifer available at no risk of measured loss of storage.

Conclusions

1. Neither a crisis nor a problem currently exists in the Gulf Coast Aquifer that Montgomery County seeks to employ. Assertions otherwise are built on false premises
1. Unwarranted groundwater restrictions threaten severe health, environmental and economic development consequences for Montgomery County, particularly in the near term (next 15-20 years). None of this has been realistically assessed or accounted for as required within the regulatory development process.
2. Lone Star's current structuring of DFC's:
 - a. Propagates unwarranted claims of crisis and problems as well as fatally flawed regulatory structures that reflect those proposed within Montgomery County
 - b. Distorts the fundamentals of the DFC process, leaving the DFC process exposed to a host of fatally flawed premises and approaches that must be fixed before a valid DFC can be proposed.