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Subject: Public Comment to State Water Plan 2007 - Draft

The opening paragraph of the 2007 State Water Plan states "Water is the lifeblood of Texas. It sustains our cities and rural communities, our farms and ranches, our businesses and industries, and our natural environment." In Chapter 12, the State Water Plan advocates managing water resources in a sustainable manner that "will be available today and in the future."

Given these important underpinnings of the State Water Plan, it is contradictory that the Region O (Llano Estacado) Plan does not attempt to manage its aquifer(s) with the intent of sustainability. Of all the sixteen regional water plans, Region O's water plan is unique in this regard. All other plans attempt to achieve groundwater sustainability, albeit several have temporary overdrafts of their aquifers. The Region O Planning Group has settled for "managing depletion" of the aquifer. This management style accepts that the Ogallala aquifer is running out of water. Rather than trying to prevent depletion, the management style is to slow down depletion.

Sustainability wouldn't be necessary if when the Southern High Plains runs out of water that some other part of the state could provide their excess water to us. However, there is no surplus in the other regions to send to the Southern High Plains, so that will not be the case.

It is one thing to try to sustain an aquifer and not be able to achieve the goal. It is another thing to not try to preserve the aquifer.

It is a travesty to the southern Ogallala aquifer not to try to sustain it. It is a travesty to the people of the Southern High Plains to not try to sustain the aquifer. It is a travesty to future generations of West Texans to not try to sustain the aquifer.

The state should not accept any regional plan that does not protect and preserve its aquifer(s) with the intent of sustainability.

Thank you.

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