



Aquifer Storage & Recovery

Public Comments Report

Austin Water | November 2025

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Communications Overview

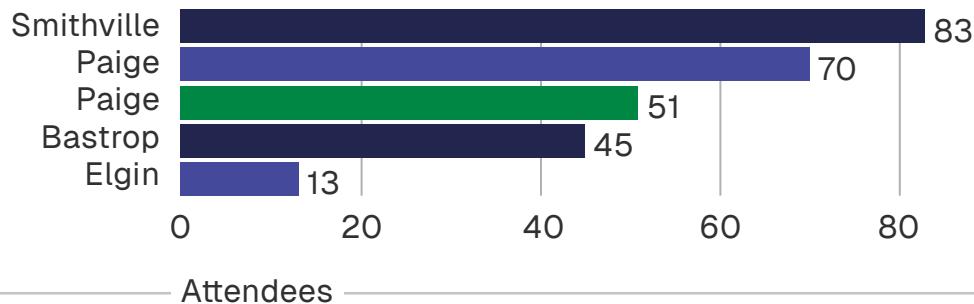
By The Numbers

5 – Open Houses	56 – Written Comments
3 – Office Hours	252 – Questionnaire Views
294 – Attendees	61 – Questionnaire Responses

Open Houses were held throughout Bastrop County to allow residents to provide feedback, ask questions and learn more about Aquifer Storage and Recovery. Open Houses were styled in a “come and go” fashion.

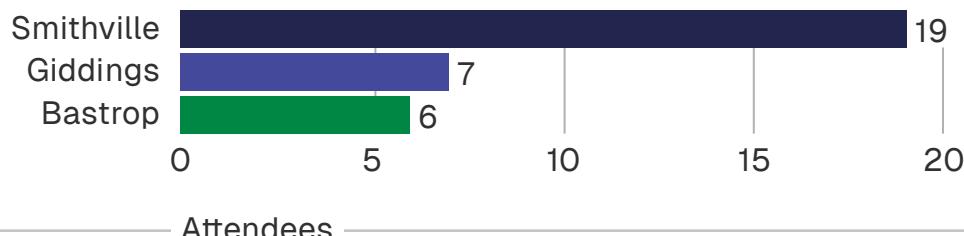


Open Houses



Office Hours were held throughout Bastrop County to allow residents to provide feedback, ask questions and learn more about Aquifer Storage and Recovery. Office Hours were styled in a “one-on-one” fashion for a more personalized opportunity for residents to interact with the team.

Office Hours



Ad Placements

- Bastrop Advertiser
- Bastrop County Weekly
- Elgin Courier
- Community Impact
- Smithville Texas News

Social Media Ad

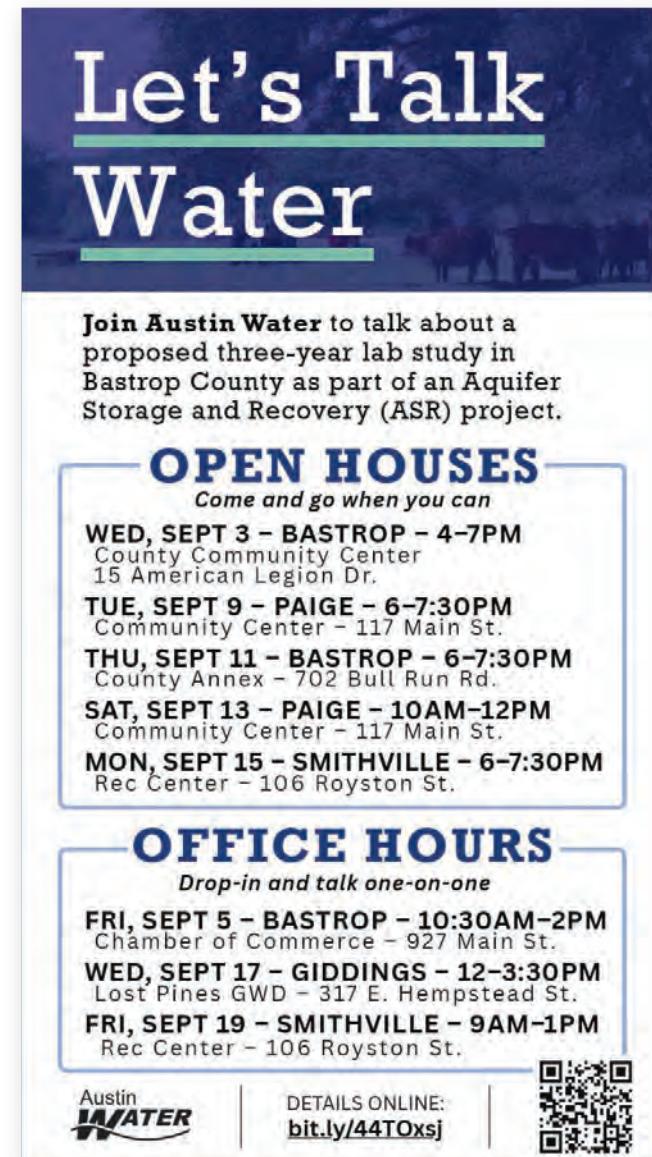
- 190,496 – Impressions
- 18,752 – Interactions
- 2,682 – Link Clicks
- 153 – Comments
- 124 – Shares

Additional Outlets

- Bastrop County PIO group
- Stakeholders networks

Project Webpage

- 5,203 – Web Page views
- from Aug. 18 to Sept. 25



Let's Talk Water

Join Austin Water to talk about a proposed three-year lab study in Bastrop County as part of an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project.

OPEN HOUSES
Come and go when you can

WED, SEPT 3 – BASTROP – 4-7PM
County Community Center
15 American Legion Dr.

TUE, SEPT 9 – PAIGE – 6-7:30PM
Community Center – 117 Main St.

THU, SEPT 11 – BASTROP – 6-7:30PM
County Annex – 702 Bull Run Rd.

SAT, SEPT 13 – PAIGE – 10AM-12PM
Community Center – 117 Main St.

MON, SEPT 15 – SMITHVILLE – 6-7:30PM
Rec Center – 106 Royston St.

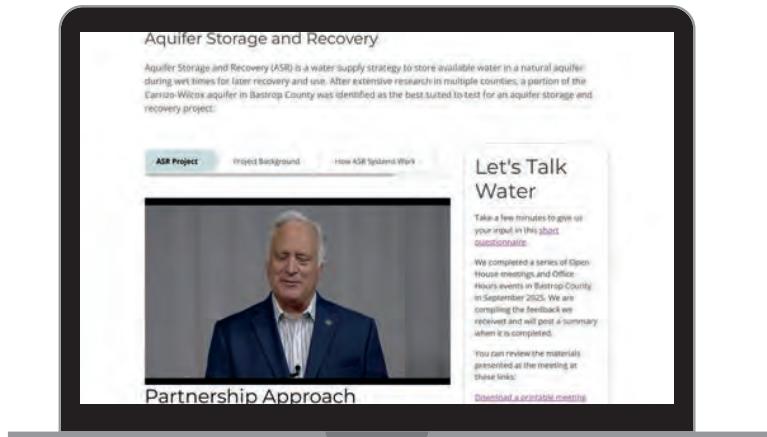
OFFICE HOURS
Drop-in and talk one-on-one

FRI, SEPT 5 – BASTROP – 10:30AM-2PM
Chamber of Commerce – 927 Main St.

WED, SEPT 17 – GIDDINGS – 12-3:30PM
Lost Pines GWD – 317 E. Hempstead St.

FRI, SEPT 19 – SMITHVILLE – 9AM-1PM
Rec Center – 106 Royston St.

Austin **WATER** | DETAILS ONLINE: bit.ly/44TOxsj | 



Aquifer Storage and Recovery

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) is a water supply strategy to store available water in a natural aquifer during wet times for later recovery and use. After extensive research in multiple counties, a portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer in Bastrop County was identified as the best suited to test for an aquifer storage and recovery project.

ASR Project | Project Background | How ASR System Work

Let's Talk Water

Take a few minutes to give us your input in this [public meeting](#)! We completed a series of Open House and Office Hours events in Bastrop County in September 2023. We are compiling the feedback we received and will post a summary when it's completed. You can review the materials presented at the meeting at these links: [Download a printable meeting](#)

Partnership Approach

Comments, Responses & Letters Received

This section is in chronological order.

This section includes a letter from State Representative Stan Gerdes.

Some commenters chose not to provide names.

Sept 3 | Bastrop Open House Comments

Comment 1

Name:

City: Bastrop

1. I like the format of having the stations. 2. I better understand the aquifer formations and the science after attending. 3. Your Bastrop City meetings are at 4:00 pm and 11 am. You need a meeting after working hours so more people can attend and be educated.

Austin Water Response: We are glad that you found the meeting to be informative. The Open House style meetings are a come and go format, meaning that attendees could attend anytime during the scheduled hours, which extended into the evening. We will make that more clear for future meetings.

Comment 2

Name:

City: Bastrop

How are you testing the water. How will public know the results. How do we know your water is safe.

Austin Water Response: Transparency is a key part of this project. We'll be using best practices and industry-standard methods to test the water. An ASR Technical Advisory Group that will include technical representatives from Bastrop County entities will provide input from the beginning to the completion of the Field Testing Phase of the project. Entities that will have representatives on the TAG include Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District, Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund, Aqua Water Supply Corporation, Bastrop County Water Control Improvement District #2 and Austin Water. This group will help ensure the testing is thorough, science-based, and accountable. Results from the testing will be shared with the public, so the community can stay informed and confident that the water is safe and the aquifer is being protected.

Comment 3.1

Name:

City: Bastrop

Can you committ 100% to not use eminent domain.

Austin Water Response: In the binding Collaboration Agreement with local stakeholders, the City of Austin has committed to not use eminent domain in Bastrop County for this project. If the project moves beyond the testing phase, we will be working with willing landowners.

Comment 3.2

Name:

City: Bastrop

Austin Water wastes a lot of water via leaks in the system. how can you comitt & limit that loss before you polute the aquifer?

Austin Water Response: Austin Water is committed to decreasing the water lost from the City's water system. Utility side water loss control is a component of Austin Water's 100-year Integrated Water Resource Plan, Water Forward

(https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/WaterForward/AW_WaterForward_Report_2024_Appendices.pdf).

Austin Water hired Black and Veatch to develop a water loss report with recommendations on how Austin Water can lower its water loss. The report

(https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/B%26V_Austin_Water_Loss_100124.pdf) was finished in October of 2024 and Austin Water is prioritizing the implementation of those recommendations to reduce water loss.

Comment 3.2

Name:

City: Bastrop

How can you guarantee that the poison won't enlarge in the future continuing to jeopardize the quality of the aquifer? (The camel's nose is under the tent)

Austin Water Response: Protecting water quality and the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is one of our top priorities, as the success of this water storage project depends on keeping the aquifer healthy. To support this goal, a three-year field testing phase is planned where we'll collect groundwater and core samples from the aquifer and test how they interact with Austin Water's drinking water. All of this water quality testing will happen in a lab, and the results will help us understand whether any adjustments are needed to make sure the water we store is fully compatible with the aquifer. This careful, science-based approach helps us protect this important natural resource while planning for the region's future water needs.

Comment 4

Name:

City: Bastrop

I was told the stakeholders will have a say in this project (Bastrop City). What about those who live in the county?

Austin Water Response: Austin Water has worked with Bastrop County as well as cities, water providers, and the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District to develop a binding Collaboration Agreement to guide decision-making on the next phase of field testing, as requested by the stakeholders. Stakeholders signing onto this agreement will provide recommendations to Austin City Council on whether and how this project should proceed to future phases. The feedback from public meetings (this document) is also being provided to the Austin City Council.

Comment 5.1

Name:

City: Bastrop

1. Don't mess with our aquifer! Honest mistakes can be made. If a "mistake" is put in the aquifer it can't be undone. 2. If the project is started then stopped - the changes made will that be made such.

Austin Water Response: Protecting water quality and the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is one of our top priorities, as the success of this water storage project depends on keeping the aquifer healthy. To support this goal, a three-year field testing phase is planned where we'll collect groundwater and core samples from the aquifer and test how they interact with Austin Water's drinking water. All of this water quality testing will happen in a lab, and the results will help us understand whether any adjustments are needed to make sure the water we store is fully compatible with the aquifer. This careful, science-based approach helps us protect this important natural resource while planning for the region's future water needs.

Comment 5.2

Name:

City: Bastrop

If you want to go forward do it in Travis County

Austin Water Response: After completing a desktop study of aquifers in eight counties, a portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Bastrop County and the Trinity Aquifer in Travis County have been identified as best suited for further study. Austin Water plans to conduct field testing in Travis County at the same time as the proposed field testing in Bastrop County.

Comment 6.1

Name:

City: Bastrop

I am not pleased that the current landowners of the proposed aquifer testing sites have not been notified of location and proposition of proposed aquifer site. The land owners should be the first citizens to be notified of proposition.

Austin Water Response: Since the project is in very early stages, we have not started discussions with individual landowners. We promoted the September 2025 community engagement meetings through a press release, social media, digital and print ads in local publications and through coordination with local stakeholders to make residents aware of the opportunity to learn more and engage about the project.

Comment 6.2

Name:

City: Bastrop

How does the aquifer affect the existing water wells and how will citizens water not be contaminated?

Austin Water Response: There are currently no wells in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in the area and depth where we plan to conduct field testing. Existing domestic and agricultural wells in the region draw from shallower aquifers that are separated from the Carrizo-Wilcox by a natural confining layer. Over the next few years, our testing will help us better understand how this project might affect nearby wells. Based on what we know today, we expect little to no impact on local domestic wells. If any wells are found to be affected, we will work closely with landowners to proactively and expeditiously address the issue, either by deepening existing wells or connecting them to a nearby water provider, depending on the landowner's preference.

Comment 7.1

Name:

City: Bastrop

How will you test for those things you dont know about? ex. PCBs were not originally known as bad. once they are in the aquifer how will you fix/mitigate that? If you don't know what you don't know.

Austin Water Response: In the binding Collaboration Agreement, Austin Water has committed to "Develop a policy statement for the purposes of the potential ASR project in Bastrop County that addresses both regulated and unregulated contaminants." We will provide updates and seek feedback on this policy statement. If the ASR project proceeds to Phase 2 piloting, Austin Water will develop a mitigation plan and identify funding to implement mitigation strategies as necessary to address possible impacts from full-scale ASR project operations.

Comment 7.2

Name:

City: Bastrop

Fault lines exist in th aquifer. How do you keep inter strata transmission?

Austin Water Response: Yes, it's true that fault lines exist within the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer, and that's one of the reasons we're taking a careful, science-based approach. As part of our three-year testing phase, we'll be studying the geology of the area in partnership with the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District to better understand how water moves underground. This testing will help us identify and minimize the risk of water moving between different layers of the aquifer (inter-strata transmission), and minimize interactions with other parts of the aquifer system.

Comment 7.3

Name:

City: Bastrop

Austin has BAD tasting water from minerals. How do you plan to remove these minerals from polluting the aquifer. Those minerals do not exist in the aquifer.

Austin Water Response: We want to reassure you that Austin Water's treated drinking water already meets and exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. The source of Austin's drinking water is the Highland Lakes upstream of Austin. That said, we understand that the native groundwater in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer has a different natural composition. That's why part of our multi-year field testing phase includes studying how Austin's drinking water interacts with native groundwater through testing in a laboratory. These tests will help us determine if any conditioning is needed before water is stored, so we can ensure compatibility with the native groundwater. Should the project proceed to full-scale implementation, Austin's water would be stored in deep layers of the aquifer that are separated via a confining layer from the shallower aquifer layers accessed by domestic and agricultural wells.

Comment 8

Name:

City: Bastrop

The questions I asked are just being "hedged" in. I don't want treated water injected into our aquifer... I'm sorry that Austin now needs a "holding tank" for their water, but we are not the area to choose! Please don't inject into our aquifer... you don't have the standards. The damage in the future cannot be redacted!

Austin Water Response: We want to reassure you that Austin Water's treated drinking water already meets and exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. The source of Austin's drinking water is the Highland Lakes upstream of Austin. That said, we understand that the native groundwater in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer has a different natural composition. That's why part of our multi-year field testing phase includes studying how Austin's drinking water interacts with native groundwater through testing in a laboratory. These tests will help us determine if any conditioning is needed before water is stored, so we can ensure compatibility with the native groundwater. Should the project proceed to full-scale implementation, Austin's water would be stored in deep layers of the aquifer that are separated via a confining layer from the shallower aquifer layers accessed by domestic and agricultural wells.

Comment 9

Name:

City: Bastrop

I want to hear input from Aqua Water, our supplier, to hear their take and judgement of the project!

Austin Water Response: Thank you for your feedback. Austin Water has worked with Aqua Water Supply Corporation and other stakeholders to develop a binding Collaboration Agreement to guide decision-making on the next phase of field testing. Aqua Water has signed this agreement and will be part of the stakeholder group providing recommendations to Austin City Council on whether and how this project should proceed to future phases.

Comment 10

Name:**City:** Bastrop

First emotion is being skeptical of Austin Water even touching our aquifer. Agree that we are all having water issues, that will only grow as urban and commercial sprawl continue. The largest part of the region usage is in Austin/Travis county. Still skeptical.

Austin Water Response: Regional water planning is critical for our region's resilience, and ASR is just one strategy Austin Water is looking into. The Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (Region K) includes Bastrop County, Austin and other water users in the basin who work together to develop a comprehensive water plan for the region, as part of the state water planning process. Austin's ASR project has been in the State Water Plan since 2016. We will continue to be transparent and share information as this project moves forward.

Comment 11

Name:**City:** Bastrop

Your failure to plan ahead and live within your means is not our problem or risk. From its inception Austin elected to live on surface water. Mansfield is a giant dam and there are a whole series of lakes above it. You/LCRA are belatedly planning building downstream reservoirs. Bastrop used to use surface water from Colorado River (your source) but decided it was too difficult/expensive to treat to our standard. Now we use groundwater. Clean up your own house first. During the debate about treatment Plant 4, There were claims that you lost 50% of your treated water to system leaks. I understand that is still a major problem. Fix your leaks first! Businesses and homeowners all over Austin choose or are required to have green lawns and landscapes frequently with non-native hogs like St. Augustin. For such premises 70% of water usage in the summer is outside the house. Update premises practice of requirements to be more like Odessa. Educate and impose on your citizens/consumers first before you disrupt and endanger our water supply. Could confirmed their the best exports can be completely wrong. The green energy force shows that among experts can be completely and expensively wrong and cause damage that will linger for decades if not be irresibles. Officials, experts and consultants are hustling us? when their lips are moving. Aquifers run for tens of hundred of miles. Supposed seperation can be affected/changed by many things. Unknown faultlines, unknown wells of various sorts and earth tremors/ earth sucker - that are more and more frequent. Aquifer health and recharge are matters of decades, centuries, and even a thousand years or more. It is hubris for the city of Austin to pretend that they understand our aquifer now or in the future. Any mistakes made in ASR will be difficult to correct for any amount of money. Things like PFAs have been confirmed in Dillo Dirt. Austin services. There chemicals from Dillo Dirt and have killed cattle and made a pasture unusable for multiple years. How did the PFAs get into the Austin system???? Even if you were completely correct as to conditions now, you cannot assure future conditions, including aquifer seperation. Plus if you contaminate the aquifer under present or future standards. There is no way to remove it/to treat it. 1. Fix your own system leaks first. 2. Change city, HOA of consumers

rules/practices to accomplish meaningful water conservation (e.g. San Antonio and Odessa) 3. Explore after surface reservoirs (and they are ways to minimize evaporation from lakes 4. Explore other options, including alternative storage if you have to dig them or build them and approaches by other cities (building a reservoir in another pipe water e.g. San Antonio?) Are you managing this the way you manage "affordability," homelessness, crime and building the underground rail?

Austin Water Response: Austin's proposed ASR project is a way to stretch our existing water supplies by storing excess water for later use.

Austin Water is committed to decreasing the water lost from the City's water system. Utility side water loss control is a component of Austin Water's 100-year Integrated Water Resource Plan, Water Forward

(https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/WaterForward/AW_WaterForward_Report_2024_Appendices.pdf).

Austin Water hired Black and Veatch to develop a water loss report with recommendations on how Austin Water can lower its water loss. The report

(https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/B%26V_Austin_Water_Loss_100124.pdf) was finished in October of 2024 and Austin Water is prioritizing the implementation of those recommendations to reduce water loss.

Water Forward, Austin's 100-year integrated water resource plan, includes a strong emphasis on water conservation and water reuse. Austin has significantly reduced outdoor water use with year-round one day per week watering restrictions for irrigation systems. We are committed to further reducing outdoor water use by transforming landscapes to be drought-tolerant, limiting the size of irrigation systems for single family homes, and increasing the use of non-potable water sources for outdoor irrigation. For more information about Austin's conservation programs, please visit this link (<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/saving-water-home>).

Protecting water quality and the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is one of our top priorities, as the success of this water storage project depends on keeping the aquifer healthy. To support this goal, a three-year field-testing phase is planned where we'll collect groundwater and core samples from the aquifer and test how they interact with Austin Water's drinking water. All of this water quality testing will happen in a lab, and the results will help us understand whether any adjustments are needed to make sure the water we store is fully compatible with the aquifer. This careful, science-based approach helps us protect this important natural resource while planning for the region's future water needs.

There are currently no wells in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in the area and depth where we plan to conduct field testing. Existing domestic and agricultural wells in the region draw from shallower aquifers that are separated from the Carrizo-Wilcox by a natural confining layer. If the project proceeds after field testing, we'll begin a small-scale pilot phase lasting about three more years, where we'll inject water that is similar to the City of Austin

drinking water to test water quality, operational, and other parameters. Only after successful piloting will we consider going to full-scale implementation.

We understand PFAS is a concern. In the binding Collaboration Agreement, Austin Water has committed to "Develop a policy statement for the purposes of the potential ASR project in Bastrop County that addresses both regulated and unregulated contaminants." We will provide updates and seek feedback on this policy statement.

Comment 12

Name:

City: Bastrop

I like the format of the meeting - a walk around open houses/stations. Please pool the time ranges for the open house meeting. You only include the start time. This would allow more individuals to participate. Ditch the purple on your pens. Thank you for the snacks.

Austin Water Response: We'll look at our materials in the future to make meeting times more clear.

Comment 13

Name:

City: Bastrop

For your male presenters, lose the slim chinos, and dress sneakers. Your audience is homeowners, ranchers, land-owners, etc. not office workers. Get some boots and straight cut blue jeans or a coat with slacks and traditional dress shoes. Know your audience and don't dress like an Austin office. dress like Texas. It'll make you look more relatable. Look like the locals.

Austin Water Response: Your feedback has been noted.

Comment 14 and 15

Name: Mark Wyatt and Shari Wyatt

City: Bastrop

Mark Wyatt - please see attached comments

No "Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)" in Paige

SUMMARY: The Paige Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project by Austin Water will forever contaminate the pure aquifers with chemicals that are currently known to have serious health dangers yet are not presently regulated and removed when the water is treated to current Safe Drinking Water regulations (National Primary Drinking Water Regulations) prior to injection. This creates a serious health risk for water well owners and reduces land values for all landowners in the affected Paige area with no available remedy or remediation possible. The Paige area will be forever known as having contaminated well water and the real estate in the Paige region will have the stigma of contaminated/polluted water.

Background: The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets the legal limits on over 90 contaminants in drinking water. However, there are many other contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Every five years EPA reviews the list of contaminants, largely based on the Contaminant Candidate List, and makes a determination of contaminants that pose a public health risk, develops safe standards through rule-making, and adds them to the updated list of contaminants that must be removed from treated water to ensure public health.

This danger of unregulated chemicals found in treated surface water being injected into pure aquifers is not just speculation or hyperbole. A recent example of new dangerous surface water chemicals being identified and added to the regulated list is Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) that are linked to certain cancers and are considered by some to be carcinogenic. Studies have associated PFAS exposure with increased risks of cancers such as kidney cancer, testicular cancer, melanoma, and uterine cancer. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified one specific PFAS, PFOA, as "carcinogenic to humans". These dangerous carcinogens do not have to be removed from treated drinking water as of this date. EPA determined in 2024 they should establish legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for these dangerous chemicals. (Some PFAS variants were recently removed and the compliance date for the remaining ones extended.)

Danger of ASR: Water treated prior to injection could contain these dangerous PFAS chemicals or other chemicals that in the future may be added as regulated contaminants. Just because the water is treated before injection to today's standard does not make it safe or free from "forever contaminants or pollutants". New chemicals will be determined in the future to be just as dangerous to public health as PFAS recently were, but since not removed under today's drinking water treatment standards, they will be forever in the aquifer water under the Paige land. These chemicals from treated Austin Water sources will contaminate the current pure, clean water in the aquifers under the Paige land.

Water well users: Once these "forever pollutants" are injected through Aquifer Storage and Recovery, there is no practical way for a well owner to ever remove them from their drinking water. Once the future "PFAS-like" chemical is injected, a well owner cannot remove it to make their drinking water safe for consumption.

All landowners affected: The Paige area will be known as a contaminated water area and this stigma will significantly affect property values. No one wants to buy in a contaminated water area. If you have several choices, would you buy land in an area known for its contaminated / polluted water? Of course not. In addition to property values, it will ruin our land heritage for our future generations. (Some could even liken it to the Chernobyl nuclear reactor effect – creating land in Paige that is contaminated with no practical way to remove injected contaminants. At least for the Chernobyl reactor site, time will mitigate the danger. For injected contaminants in the aquifers, time will not cure nor remedy the danger.)

Other Concerns/ Issues with Paige ASR project from Paige area citizens

Comprehensive health study

The ASR project must include a comprehensive longitudinal health impact study to landowners and water well users now and in the future before any drilling or construction begins. Health risks have already been identified and a study of health impact needs to be conducted prior to any irreversible action such as drilling or injection occurs. The study should be based on other existing ASR projects to determine public health impacts.

In addition, Austin Water needs to conduct an extensive literature review of public health longitudinal studies on existing ASR projects showing incidences of diseases for populations using well water in the same area as an ASR project. This is essential since the aquifer is altered in existing ASR projects from the injection processes. Austin Water should post on its website the results of this report to ensure any existing health studies, in addition to its own health impact study, are taken into account in the decision-making process.

All Technical Advisory Group information should be available to the general public

The draft ASR Collaboration Agreement dated 8/4/2025 says only non-technical stakeholders and partners signing this agreement will be invited to attend the Technical Advisory Group meetings. These meetings should be open to the general public. Public decorum requirements and public comment limits are acceptable but the meetings should be open to all interested parties, particularly affected landowners in the Paige area.

Environmental Impact Statement (or similar level study)

Austin Water should prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (at the same level as the Environmental Impact Statement required under the federal National Environmental Policy Act) prior to taking any action that limits future options. The study should evaluate cumulative and connected impacts of the Paige ASR project.

Comingling of waters from different aquifers represents a potential health risk

The ASR project does not consider the real potential for waters from different aquifers comingling due to earthquakes and fault lines/fractures, along with the possibility of deep wells that are not fully encased allowing the transfer of water from one aquifer to another. This can result in unintended negative consequences of the Paige ASR project. Therefore, in discussing the safety of the ASR project, Austin Water cannot presume water will not be comingled between aquifers used by water wells in the Paige area along with aquifers used by local public water utilities in Bastrop County.

ASR projects have to deal with serious clogging problems that can lead to aquifer contamination. Higher costs often lead to abandonment of the ASR project after causing detrimental effects to the aquifers

Clogging of ASR injection and recovery wells is caused by buildup of particles in the injected water and air entrainment. Clogging can also be caused by the growth of microorganisms feeding on the nutrients in the recharged water that create mats of dead microorganisms and slime that clog up the filters. Some of the solutions for well clogging, such as adding a disinfectant into the injected surface water, can lead to aquifer contamination issues when that disinfectant reaches the aquifer and reacts with its confining geological materials. This leads to higher operational costs that has resulted in the abandonment of many ASR projects across the nation after causing permanent, detrimental effects to the aquifers.

ASR project will build infrastructure that could be used in the future to remove additional ground water from our aquifers

The draft ASR Collaboration Agreement dated 8/4/2025 says Austin Water will not seek a groundwater permit from the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District. While this is the current intention, it does not preclude any request for a permit in the future. Once the large wells, water pumps and transmission lines are installed, Austin Water will have the capacity to remove millions of gallons of additional water from the aquifers that currently serves local public water utilities and individual well owners. The agreement does not say Austin Water will never seek a groundwater permit that would use any ASR facilities or infrastructure to remove additional ground water from the aquifers.

Primary beneficiaries of the ASR project and those negatively impacted and assuming the risk are in different counties

An ASR project should be constructed in the area and injected into the aquifers serving the primary beneficiaries. In this Paige ASR project, the primary beneficiaries are located in Travis County while those negatively impacted and assuming all the health risks are in Bastrop County. The impact and risk are further concentrated in the community around Paige, Texas. It is inappropriate for a major ASR project to establish this separation between primary beneficiaries and those negatively impacted. Good policy decisions are best made when those benefiting are also assuming the risk and they can then weigh the costs and benefits to themselves from a risky project.

Austin Water must not seek to garner support by providing benefits to any public water utility

Austin Water must not seek to garner support for this ASR project by providing benefits to any public water utility within Bastrop County while the landowners in the Paige community experience all the risk. This is an inappropriate method of dividing Bastrop County citizens.

To our neighbors: Please join us as we all gather more information and oppose Austin Water's proposed Paige ASR project. Contact us any time. Together, we can protect Paige and Bastrop County.

Protect Paige Water
Mark and Shari Wyatt
789 Antioch Road
Paige, TX 78659
Email: protectpaigewater@gmail.com
Mark's cell phone: (512) 296-8700
Shari's cell phone: (512) 923-9000

8/31/2025

BASTROP COUNTY SHOULD OPPOSE THE AUSTIN WATER AQUIFER STORAGE & RECOVERY (ASR) PROJECT IN PAIGE

by Mark and Shari Wyatt

ASR Injects Unregulated Contaminants
Treated surface water contaminates clean, pure aquifer water by injecting unregulated surface water chemicals or "Forever Contaminants" into the aquifer. **Well owners can never remove these contaminants.**

Longitudinal Health Impact Study Results for Existing ASR Projects
Health risks are a great concern. Just saying, "We will test and treat water" does not make the ASR project safe. Austin Water should post the results of longitudinal public health studies for existing ASR projects regarding incidences of disease for populations in existing ASR areas. They should also include a comprehensive health impact study to Paige area landowners and water well users now and before any construction begins.

All Landowners Affected Economically
Once the aquifers under the Paige area are injected with surface water, Paige will have the stigma of being a contaminated water area. Property values will drop significantly. Some will liken it to the Chernobyl nuclear reactor effect. And if implemented, landowners in the Paige ASR target area will not have full control over their lands. Austin Water will control what happens on their property.

Comingling of Aquifer Waters
Austin Water should not presume water will not be comingled between aquifers. Just stating, "Aquifers will not comeingle," does not prove anything. Deep wells that are not fully encased pose a health risk to wells and public water utilities.

ASR Project Will Provide Infrastructure to Remove Additional Ground Water
The draft ASR Agreement dated 08/04/25 states Austin Water will not seek a groundwater permit to obtain additional water. While this is the current intention, it does not preclude any request for a permit in the future.

Environmental Impact Statement (or similar level study)
Austin Water should prepare an Environmental Impact Statement prior to taking any action. The study should evaluate cumulative and connected impacts of the Paige ASR project.

Austin Water Should Not Garner Support by Providing Benefits to any Public Water Utility in Bastrop County
Austin Water should not garner support by providing benefits to public water utilities and organizations while Paige landowners experience all the risk. This is an inappropriate method of dividing Bastrop County citizens.

An ASR Project Should Be Constructed in an Area and Injected into the Aquifers Serving the Primary Beneficiaries
In the Paige ASR project, the primary beneficiaries are located in Travis County, while those negatively impacted are in Bastrop County. Austin Water should develop ASR projects in the county of the primary beneficiaries.

Protect Paige Water
Mark & Shari Wyatt
789 Antioch Road
Paige, Texas 78659
protectpaigewater@gmail.com
Mark's cell: 512.296.8700
Shari's cell: 512.923.9000

Austin Water Response:

We appreciate the thoughtful feedback and concerns shared by members of the Bastrop County community regarding the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project near Paige. We take these concerns seriously and are committed to transparency, safety, and collaboration throughout every phase of this project. Below is a summary of how we are addressing key issues raised:

1. Extensive Testing and Ongoing Monitoring

The ASR project will begin with a three-year field-testing phase. This phase will help us understand how Austin's drinking water interacts with native groundwater through testing in a laboratory. These tests will help us determine if any conditioning is needed before water is stored, so we can ensure compatibility with the native groundwater. An ASR Technical Advisory Group that will include technical representatives from Bastrop County entities will provide input from the beginning to the completion of the Field-Testing Phase of the project. Entities that will have representatives on the TAG include the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District, Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund, Aqua Water Supply Corporation, Bastrop County Water Control Improvement District #2 and Austin Water. Should the project proceed to full-scale implementation, the project will include continuous monitoring and will comply with all state and federal regulations to protect the aquifer and surrounding environment. Austin Water will perform water quality testing on water to be injected and water recovered from the ASR project and will provide those data to the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District and the public.

2. Protecting Nearby Landowners

We are designing the project to minimize impacts to surrounding properties. Existing domestic and agricultural wells in the region draw from shallower aquifers that are separated from the Carrizo-Wilcox by a natural confining layer. Over the next few years, our testing will help us better understand how this project might affect nearby wells. If the project proceeds to future phases, we'll develop a mitigation plan to address any potential impacts, such as adjusting operations or supporting landowners if deeper wells are needed in the future. A quarter-mile buffer will be established around each ASR well. For landowners within the buffer zone, we are committed to working with willing landowners, negotiating fair compensation and working collaboratively to address concerns.

3. Adaptive Approach Based on Data

We recognize that this is a complex project, and we are committed to learning and adapting as we go. The field testing and pilot phases are designed to help us answer outstanding questions and refine the project to be safe, effective, and respectful of the local community and environment.

4. Transparency and Public Access to Information

All information shared with the ASR Technical Advisory Group will be made publicly available. Austin Water will hold public meetings to share findings and recommendations from the ASR Technical Advisory Group and will share testing

data publicly. While all meetings related to the project may not be public meetings, we will provide transparency throughout the process.

5. **Data-Driven Decision Making**

Many of the concerns raised, such as potential water quality impacts, aquifer interactions, and long-term safety, are exactly the kinds of questions we aim to answer through our testing and monitoring efforts. We will use data to guide our decisions and will share that data with the public.

6. **Geological and Operational Considerations**

We will be actively studying the geology of the area, including fault lines and aquifer characteristics, during the field testing and pilot phases. This will help us understand and mitigate risks related to water movement.

7. **No Plans to Extract Groundwater**

The ASR project will not be designed to extract native groundwater. Austin's long-term water strategy, known as Water Forward, is a 100-year integrated water plan that prioritizes conservation, reuse, and stretching our existing Colorado River and Highland Lakes supplies through strategies like sustainable storage. Taking native groundwater from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is not part of this plan.

8. **Community Benefits and Engagement**

We want to hear from Bastrop County residents about the benefits that would be meaningful to the community. Should this project move forward, we are committed to bringing value to those who are affected.

We understand that trust must be earned, and we are committed to doing that through transparency, science, and ongoing dialogue. The ASR project is still in its early stages, and no final decisions will be made without thorough testing, public input, and regulatory oversight. We look forward to continuing this conversation with the community and working together to plan for the region's future water needs.

Comment 15

Name: Shari Wyatt

City: Bastrop

See attached 2 documents. Austin Water should notify the citizens in the ASR target area by mailings. Paige citizens do not know about this project. They will need to know to make informed decisions. -Shari Wyatt

Austin Water Response: Since the project is in very early stages, we have not started discussions with individual landowners. We promoted the September 2025 community engagement meetings through a press release, social media, digital and print ads in local publications and through coordination with local stakeholders to make residents aware of the opportunity to learn more and engage about the project.

Comment 16

Name: Peggy Reeser

City: Paige

Will there be a formal q + a meeting whereby we may sit and listen to a proper presentation. Thank you, Peggy

Austin Water Response: Future meetings have not been planned, but we'll take this format into consideration.

Comment 17

Name:

City: Paige

No happy with the project

Austin Water Response: Thank you for your feedback.

Comment 18

Name: Eric Fernandes

City: Paige

More info on payments/easement restrictions!

Austin Water Response: Since the project is in very early stages, we have not started discussions with individual landowners about payments or easement restrictions at this time. We have provided an overview of what to expect in a handout for landowners (https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/WaterForward/ASR1B_Landowner-Factsheet_09.09.2025.pdf).

Comment 19

Name: Robert W. Merritt

City: Paige

Proposal for membership to the ASR Technical Advisory Group

Since 2006, I have owned a house on ten acres on South Old Potato Road in Paige, Texas, within the published boundary of the Austin Water Aquifer Storage and Recovery Target Area, making me a potential stakeholder in this project. Along with my background described below, I believe this makes me a suitable candidate for membership in the above-captioned group. Please find below a description of my background and career. Professional and personal references available upon request.

Summary: I have 40 years of experience as a cartographer, geoscientist, government advisor, and educator, working in research, petroleum exploration and production, and as an educator in the field of disaster response. My participation in this space included work in environmentally sensitive areas including the North Slope of Alaska and the Gulf Coast and dozens of other locales throughout the US. In addition to this work, I served as an advisor to the EPA on its Science Advisory Board from 2017-2020. I have training and practical experience in geology, geophysics, hydrology, reservoir engineering, satellite photometry, oceanography, meteorology, oil spill response, and disaster response.

I graduated from the University of Kansas with a BS in Geology in 1979 before attending the University of Texas to pursue a Masters in Structural Geology. While at UT, I worked for two years as a research assistant at the Bureau of Economic Geology, primarily in logging well cores and well log analysis. I left UT in 1981 to join Exxon as an Oil & Gas Information Specialist. In 1984, I accepted a position with Elf Exploration as a manager in the petroleum exploration and reservoir engineering departments. I stayed with Elf in Houston through its acquisition by Total, ending my career with TotalEnergies in 2017 as Geoscience Information Manager. In the final five years, my responsibilities included reservoir characterization, fracking efficiency, and reserves calculation in two major unconventional fields.

During my time at Elf/TotalEnergies, I was frequently involved in industry initiatives, serving as committee chair for a variety of organizations and user's groups. In addition, I was seconded on several occasions to the Petrotechnical Open Software Consortium (later called Energistics) as a project manager to develop and test standards for the collection and storage of oil and gas industry data.

In the petroleum infrastructure domain, particularly related to environmental issues, I developed multiple innovative techniques using satellite technologies and

other remote sensing sensors. On the North Slope of Alaska, I developed a method for characterizing growth of “thermal karsting”, tracking progressive damage to the permafrost that creates permanent meltwater lakes. In the offshore Gulf of Mexico, I developed a way to marry robotic pipeline inspection videos with GIS data to identify the location and cause of pipeline breaks in ultra-deep water. And I also used GIS to generate multiple exhibits detailing contamination plumes from leaking pipelines in South Texas. Throughout my career, I was recognized by TotalEnergies with multiple Innovation Awards including technologies that led to patents.

As mentioned above, I drew on my training in GIS, satellite photometry, oceanography, and meteorology to play a key role in oil spill planning and response. This role was expanded, after Hurricane Katrina, to include the safety of our employees, that eventually led to the formalization of my role as the Hurricane Response Coordinator for the organization, tasked with monitoring weather conditions, developing training programs, running actual weather-related disaster response, and educating new arrivals to the US on preparing for Hurricane Season. I continued in this role after my retirement, teaching and overseeing disaster response through 2023.

In the Fall of 2017, as I was preparing to retire, I was selected by the Trump Administration for appointment to the EPA’s Science Advisory Board (SAB). The role of the SAB is to review the quality and relevance of the scientific and technical information being used by the EPA. During my time with the EPA, besides taking an active part in the work of the Board, I wrote the SAB’s recommendation on the Fuels Regulation Modernization rule, and drawing on my expertise in hydrology, drafted the initial consensus document for the SAB’s recommendation on the Waters of the US (WOTUS) 2019 update to the Clean Water Act.

Robert W. Merritt

A large rectangular area of the page is completely blacked out, indicating the redaction of sensitive contact information.

Austin Water Response: Thank you for your interest in serving on the ASR Technical Advisory Group.

Comment 20

Name:

City: Paige

Who says that ASR is a proven method? Where is the source documentation? Who else has used this method and for how long?

Austin Water Response: The Texas Water Development Board recognizes ASR as a proven method to store and conserve water supply. In Texas, there are currently 3 operational ASR projects.

- El Paso's ASR project has been operational since 1985
- Kerrville's ASR project has been operational since 1998
- San Antonio's ASR project has been operational since 2004

The Texas Water Development Board

(<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/shells/doc/AquiferStorageRecovery.pdf>)

requires Regional Water Planning Groups to consider ASR as a potential water management strategy if there are unmet water needs identified. The requirement comes from House Bill 807 which was passed by the 86th Texas Legislature in 2019. There are currently 35 ASR projects in the planning or piloting phase in Texas.

Comment 21

Name:

City: Paige

Define drinking water?

Austin Water Response: Water transported to Bastrop County for storage will be treated drinking water from the Highland Lakes, which are the freshwater reservoirs located upstream of Austin formed by dams along the lower Colorado River. This is the same water sent to Austin Water customers. Austin Water operates three water treatment plants: Davis Water Treatment Plant and Ullrich Water Treatment Plant draw water from Lake Austin and Handcox Water Treatment Plant draws water from Lake Travis. The water quality of the Highland Lakes is protected by the TCEQ's Watershed Protection Rules (which includes the Highland Lakes Discharge Ban) and the LCRA's Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance. Learn more about Austin's drinking water quality at this link (<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/water-quality-reports>).

Sept 9 | Paige Open House Comments

Comment 22

Name:

City: Paige

Will land owners be informed of amounts stored + removed? and changes to water quality?

Austin Water Response: Should the project proceed to full-scale implementation, Austin Water will perform water quality testing on water to be injected and water recovered from the ASR project and will meter how much water is stored and recovered. These data will be provided to the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District, landowners and the public. We're committed to transparency through regular testing, reporting, and open communication through all project phases.

Comment 23

Name:

City: Paige

Get Aqua to communicate their view of this project to their clients!

Austin Water Response: Thank you for your feedback. Austin Water has worked with Aqua Water Supply Corporation and other stakeholders to develop a binding Collaboration Agreement to guide decision-making on the next phase of field testing. Aqua Water has signed this agreement and will be part of the stakeholder group providing recommendations to Austin City Council on whether and how this project should proceed to future phases.

Comment 24

Name:

City: Paige

Who is going to monitor water taken out by Austin?

Austin Water Response: If this project moves to future phases, Austin Water will submit an application for ASR project authorization to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. If Austin Water begins operating an ASR project, we will monitor and report data to the TCEQ, including the amount of water pumped into or out of the aquifer, as well as water quality data. Austin Water will share data publicly and with the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.

Comment 25

Name:

City: Paige

Route of pipeline and area of destination (pumps)?

Austin Water Response: We are still very early in the project and have not finalized the preferred location of the potential ASR wellfield. Should this project proceed, after the location of the wellfield has been identified, we will be able to develop the transmission main route, locations of pump stations, and point of integration into our distribution system. We will aim to use right-of-way to route the transmission main as much as possible. Where property acquisition is needed, we will work with willing landowners for easements or purchases and will not use eminent domain in Bastrop County for this project.

Comment 26

Name:

City: Paige

How do you establish a 1/4 mile buffer zone around an underground aquifer?

Austin Water Response: If this project moves forward to full-scale implementation, Austin Water would purchase land or easements to establish a 1/4 mile buffer around each ASR well on the land surface. Within this protected area, compatible land use practices such as farming and ranching could continue. Activities that could affect the water stored underground (such as industrial uses or drilling) would not be allowed in the protected area. We will work with willing landowners for easements or purchases and will not use eminent domain in Bastrop County for this project.

The Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer is made up of dense rock and sand that water moves through slowly. During ASR operations, we would inject water slowly into the aquifer and operate the injection wells to minimize the drift of water underground and maintain stored water under the established buffer area.

Comment 27

Name:

City: Paige

What restrictions will landowners have on their property for future uses (we don't want to be limited to just ranching and farming) and how will this affect future property value?

Austin Water Response: Since the project is in very early stages, we have not started discussions with individual landowners about restrictions on property agreements at this time. We have provided an overview of what to expect in a handout for landowners (https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/WaterForward/ASR1B_Landowner-Factsheet_09.09.2025.pdf).

Sept 11 | Elgin Open House Comments

Comment 28

Name: John Doe

City: Elgin

I want more info abt ASR

Austin Water Response: Texas Water Development Board

(<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/asr/index.asp>) has some great resources with more information about ASR.

Comment 29.1

Name: Nanci Martinez

City: Elgin

more information on future determination of fair payment for land purchases to be used.
more information on options beyond sell of total property.

Austin Water Response: Since the project is in very early stages, we have not started discussions with individual landowners about land purchases at this time. We have provided an overview of what to expect in a handout for landowners (https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/WaterForward/ASR1B_Landowner-Factsheet_09.09.2025.pdf).

Comment 29.2

Name: Nanci Martinez

City: Elgin

more information on danger to environment/tanks/drills from drilling. treatment chemicals and pumps.

Austin Water Response: We'll be looking closely at potential environmental impacts from full scale ASR operations. The ASR field testing and piloting phases will help us identify and address risks before moving forward with full-scale implementation. We're committed to using best practices and working with regulatory agencies and local experts to meet environmental safety standards.

Sept 13 | Paige Open House Comments

Comment 30.1

Name: Suzanne Ragan

City: Paige

Why not use the Trinity or Edwards Aquifers?

Austin Water Response: While the Edwards Aquifer is a vital water source for our region, it's not well-suited for a storage project like this because water moves through it too quickly. That fast movement makes it difficult to control where the stored water goes or how to recover it efficiently. In contrast, the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer has slower-moving water and more stable geologic conditions, which make it much better suited for storing and recovering water safely over time.

After completing a desktop study of aquifers in eight counties, a portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Bastrop County and the Trinity Aquifer in Travis County have been identified as best suited for further study. Austin Water plans to conduct field testing in Travis County at the same time as the proposed field testing in Bastrop County.

Comment 30.2

Name: Suzanne Ragan

City: Paige

What issues have Kerrville had with contamination and clogging using river water in Trinity aquifer?

Austin Water Response:

We are not familiar with this. We will look into this further as we continue our studies. Protecting water quality and the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is one of our top priorities, as the success of this water storage project depends on keeping the aquifer healthy. To support this goal, a three-year field testing phase is planned where we'll collect groundwater and core samples from the aquifer and test how they interact with Austin Water's drinking water. All of this water quality testing will happen in a lab, and the results will help us understand whether any adjustments are needed to make sure the water we store is fully compatible with the aquifer. This careful, science-based approach helps us protect this important natural resource while planning for the region's future water needs.

Comment 30.3

Name: Suzanne Ragan

City: Paige

Where in the Colorado River will water come from?

Austin Water Response: Water transported to Bastrop County for storage will be treated drinking water from the Highland Lakes, which are the freshwater reservoirs located upstream of Austin formed by dams along the lower Colorado River. This is the same water sent to Austin Water customers. Austin Water operates three water treatment plants: Davis Water Treatment Plant and Ullrich Water Treatment Plant draw water from Lake Austin and Handcox Water Treatment Plant draws water from Lake Travis. The water quality of the Highland Lakes is protected by the TCEQ's Watershed Protection Rules (which includes the Highland Lakes Discharge Ban) and the LCRA's Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance. Learn more about Austin's drinking water quality at this link (<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/water-quality-reports>).

Comment 30.4

Name: Suzanne Ragan

City: Paige

How and who will monitor the aquifer to assure no contamination or overfill?

Austin Water Response: If this project moves to future phases, Austin Water will submit an application for ASR project authorization to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. If Austin Water begins operating an ASR project, we will monitor and report data to the TCEQ, including the amount of water pumped into or out of the aquifer, as well as water quality data. Austin Water will share data publicly and with the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.

Comment 30.5

Name: Suzanne Ragan

City: Paige

How will injection of water in lower layers Queen City, Carrizo, Calvert Bluff, Simsboro, Hooper.

Austin Water Response: During the next three years of field testing, we'll be studying the geology of the area in partnership with the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District to better understand how water moves underground. This testing, plus an additional three years of piloting should the project proceed to that phase, will help us identify and minimize the risk of water moving between different layers of the aquifer and minimize interactions with other parts of the aquifer system.

Comment 30.6

Name: Suzanne Ragan

City: Paige

How will ASR Change landownership and use- in drilling area (size, surface use) -In buffer area (size, surface use) -

Austin Water Response: Since the project is in very early stages, we have not started discussions with individual landowners about land purchases at this time. We have provided an overview of what to expect in handout for landowners

(https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/WaterForward/ASR1B_Landowner-Factsheet_09.09.2025.pdf).

Comment 30.7

Name: Suzanne Ragan

City: Paige

What agency will approve permits

Austin Water Response: If this project moves to future phases, Austin Water will submit an application for ASR project authorization to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Comment 31

Name:

City: Paige

have no water restrictions right now, don't want any in the future bc of this project

Austin Water Response: Austin's proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project does not take native groundwater from the aquifer in Bastrop County. The project would store some of Austin's drinking water in the aquifer, and we would always put more water in than we would take out.

There are currently no wells in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in the area and depth where we plan to conduct field testing. Existing domestic and agricultural wells in the region draw from shallower aquifers that are separated from the Carrizo-Wilcox by a natural confining layer.

Comment 32

Name:

City: Paige

What written criteria is there that will stop the project if the criteria is exceeded. How can Bastrop stop the project if harmed.

Austin Water Response: Austin Water will work with an ASR Technical Advisory Group that will include technical representatives from Bastrop County entities during the Field Testing Phase of the project. Entities that will have representatives on the TAG include Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District, Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund, Aqua Water Supply Corporation, Bastrop County Water Control Improvement District #2, and Austin Water. They will review testing protocols and criteria for success. If the project proceeds to full scale implementation, Austin Water will submit an application for ASR project authorization to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). State law regarding ASR and TCEQ's authorization will include requirements that must be complied with to safely and responsibly operate the ASR project. TCEQ will be the regulatory body that residents can take their potential concerns to. Austin Water will also collect and share water quality and pumping data with the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.

Comment 33

Name:

City: Paige

Make Technical Advisory Committee public meetings

Austin Water Response: Austin Water will hold public meetings to share findings and recommendations from the ASR Technical Advisory Group and will share testing data publicly. While all meetings related to the project may not be public meetings, we will share all data publicly. Our goal is to provide transparency throughout the process.

Comment 34.1

Name:

City: Paige

How will you clean pipes/injection well without introducing chemicals into aquifer?

Austin Water Response: We will follow all injection well authorization requirements from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and standard procedures developed by best practices from ASR projects across Texas and the United States with the goal of protecting the aquifer. The details for how the system would be operated and cleaned would be determined at a later phase.

Comment 34.2

Name:

City: Paige

Don't want parks and trails over this project

Austin Water Response: If this project moves to future phases, the specific land uses surrounding well fields will depend on how individual landowner agreements are worked out. No decisions will be made until future phases. If parks and trails were to be considered in the future, there would be a robust community engagement process.

Sept 15 | Smithville Open House Comments

Comment 35

Name: Catherine Skye

City: Smithville

This project does NOT belong in Bastrop County. I'm a long time landowner and am incredibly overwhelmed by tonight - I thought there would be a presentation and Q&A.

Austin Water Response: We will consider other formats for future meetings.

Comment 36.1

Name: Jacklyn Larson

City: Smithville

1) You are cAusting & creating division in the communities - A - No support should be enhanced or promoted or elivated by open or closed door negotiations or offers of any kind. 2) Go to Travis county whom are the main beneficiaries.

Austin Water Response: We are striving to be transparent throughout this process, and we hope to continue to hear from Bastrop community members about what they would like to see in a partnership.

After completing a desktop study of aquifers in eight counties, a portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Bastrop County and the Trinity Aquifer in Travis County have been identified as best suited for further study. Austin Water plans to conduct field testing in Travis County at the same time as the proposed field testing in Bastrop County.

Comment 36.2

Name: Jacklyn Larson

City: Smithville

3) No amount of assurance can convince anyone that the water from Austin would not be contaminated. You cannot guarantee that. And, it maybe 5, 10 or so years before the results show up in people, animals, & crops. By then you will be long gone! 4) You cannot guarantee water will not comingle. Your promise cannot be fulfilled. Every farmer & personwho has water on or near their property knows this. Who are you kidding? 5) Everyone will be effected by contaminated water - us, or children, our grandchildren, our babies & elderly. You will be responsible for deaths & illness. 6) The contaminants cannot be removed from well owners and everyone knows the small communities already struggle to clean water for human consumption

Austin Water Response: We want to reassure you that Austin Water's treated drinking water already meets and exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. The source of Austin's drinking water is the Highland Lakes upstream of Austin. That said, we understand that the native groundwater in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer has a different natural composition. That's why part of our multi-year field testing phase includes studying how Austin's drinking water interacts with native groundwater through testing in a laboratory. These tests will help us determine if any conditioning is needed before water is stored, so we can ensure compatibility with the native groundwater. Should the project proceed to full-scale implementation, Austin's water would be stored in deep layers of the aquifer that are separated via a confining layer from the shallower aquifer layers accessed by domestic and agricultural wells.

Comment 37.1

Name: Jami Smith-Handray

City: Smithville

What location is the project?

Austin Water Response: After completing a desktop study of aquifers in eight counties, a portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Bastrop County and the Trinity Aquifer in Travis County have been identified for further study. Austin Water plans to conduct field testing in Travis County at the same time as the proposed field testing in Bastrop County. In Bastrop County, Austin Water has identified a potential location several miles south of the Paige community. Austin Water has committed to not using eminent domain in Bastrop County for this project. If the project moves forward in Bastrop County, the wellfield location will be dependent on being able to work with willing landowners within the general preferred area.

Comment 37.2

Name: Jami Smith-Handray

City: Smithville

How are we testing the water & for how long

Austin Water Response: We'll be testing the water using best scientific practices, guided by a Technical Advisory Group that will include technical representatives from Bastrop County entities. Entities that will have representatives on the TAG include Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District, Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund, Aqua Water Supply Corporation, Bastrop County Water Control Improvement District #2 and Austin Water. The testing will happen in phases: first, a three-year field testing phase where we'll collect and analyze native groundwater and aquifer core samples in the lab to understand how treated drinking water may interact with the aquifer. After that, if the project proceeds, we'll begin a small-scale pilot phase lasting about three more years, where we'll inject water that is similar to the City of Austin drinking water to test water quality, operational, and other parameters. This careful, step-by-step approach ensures we fully understand the system before moving forward with full-scale construction. If the project proceeds to full-scale implementation, Austin Water will also perform water quality testing

on water to be injected and water recovered from the ASR project and will provide those data to the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.

Comment 38

Name: Jay Allison

City: Smithville

Well done. Answered all the questions honestly and transparently. Suggest revising some of the language about eminent domain. If you are committed to not exercising eminent domain, say so adamantly. Thank you for all of the information!

Austin Water Response: In the binding Collaboration Agreement with local stakeholders, the City of Austin has committed to not use eminent domain in Bastrop County for this project. If the project moves beyond the testing phase, we will be working with willing landowners. Thank you for your feedback related to the language in our materials related to eminent domain. We will consider this in our future materials.

Comment 39.1

Name: Mark Whiting

City: Smithville

Water chemistry maintenance & matching with Aquifer.

Austin Water Response: Protecting water quality and the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is one of our top priorities, as the success of this water storage project depends on keeping the aquifer healthy. To support this goal, a three-year field testing phase is planned where we'll collect groundwater and core samples from the aquifer and test how they interact with Austin Water's drinking water. All of this water quality testing will happen in a lab, and the results will help us understand whether any adjustments are needed to make sure the water we store is fully compatible with the aquifer. This careful, science-based approach helps us protect this important natural resource while planning for the region's future water needs. If the project proceeds to full-scale implementation, Austin Water will perform water quality testing on water to be injected and water recovered from the ASR project and will provide those data to the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.

Comment 39.2

Name: Mark Whiting

City: Smithville

Water use monitoring from aquifer.

Austin Water Response: If this project moves to future phases, Austin Water will submit an application for ASR project authorization to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. If Austin Water begins operating an ASR project, we will monitor and report data to the TCEQ, including the amount of water pumped into or out of the aquifer, as well as water quality data. Austin Water will share data publicly and with the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.

Comment 39.3

Name: Mark Whiting

City: Smithville

Revinue and compensation for well owners in the affected area.

Austin Water Response: Since the project is in very early stages, we have not started discussions with individual landowners about compensation at this time. We have provided an overview of what to expect in a handout for landowners

(https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/WaterForward/ASR1B_Landowner-Factsheet_09.09.2025.pdf).

Comment 39.4

Name: Mark Whiting

City: Smithville

Address waste & leaks in COA before expanding Austin Water to Bastrop

Austin Water Response: Austin Water is committed to decreasing the water lost from the City's water system. Utility side water loss control is a component of Austin Water's 100-year Integrated Water Resource Plan, Water Forward

(https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/WaterForward/AW_WaterForward_Report_2024_Appendices.pdf).

Comment 40.1

Name: Jennifer Garcia

City: Smithville

As a resident of Bastrop County, I oppose this Aquifer Storage Recovery Project. I speak for myself, my spouse and our young daughter when I say "No thank you" to building this ASRP. Please consider a location closer to Austin. Bastrop would like to maintain water in our own ways (including rainwater collection/harvesting). My family and our neighbors DO NOT approve of or want an ASRP in Bastrop County. Our concerns are both ecological and economic. It is very important to use sustainable measures to keep Bastrop water clean and safe. As a former resident of South Austin, I have experience with the low quality of Austin Water and their low standards for water safety and taste. I encourage the leaders of Bastrop county to reject this proposal. I also encourage Austin Water to stop this project and find an alternate location outside of Bastrop County. Thank you.

Austin Water Response: Communities across the Colorado River basin are connected through our water planning. The Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (Region K) includes Bastrop County, Austin and other water users in the basin who work together to develop a comprehensive water plan for the region, as part of the state water planning process. Conservation and reuse are important to Austin's long range planning, as is ASR. Austin's ASR project has been in the State Water Plan since 2016.

After completing a desktop study of aquifers in eight counties, a portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Bastrop County and the Trinity Aquifer in Travis County have been identified as best suited for further study. Austin Water plans to conduct field testing in Travis County at the same time as the proposed field testing in Bastrop County.

Austin Water publishes an annual water quality report (<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/water-quality-reports>). If you have any questions about the report, please let us know.

Comment 41

Name: Ivy Cueto

City: Smithville

As a land & home owner in Bastrop County. I am completely against this proposal idea/plan. I have lived off of heavily treated public water for over 20 years and it has completely wrecked my body and system. I built a home for my family where we could have access to natural water that has not been treated, and its been hugely beneficial for my health & my family's health. I DO NOT want chemicals in my water that I am getting from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. I understand how an aquifer works and there is not a way to keep this proposed treated water separated from the water others pull out. Chemicals deep in the aquifers will produce long-lasting and unknown outcomes to our ecosystem, including wildlife, plantlife, water, and organisms that keep a delicate balance in check. Keep Austin's problems in Austin and Travis County. They aren't welcome here.

Austin Water Response: We want to reassure you that Austin Water's treated drinking water already meets and exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. The source of Austin's drinking water is the Highland Lakes upstream of Austin. That said, we understand that the native groundwater in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer has a different natural composition. That's why part of our multi-year field testing phase includes studying how Austin's drinking water interacts with native groundwater through testing in a laboratory. These tests will help us determine if any conditioning is needed before water is stored, so we can ensure compatibility with the native groundwater. Should the project proceed to full-scale implementation, Austin's water would be stored in deep layers of the aquifer that are separated via a confining layer from the shallower aquifer layers accessed by domestic and agricultural wells.

Comment 42.1

Name:

City: Smithville

There is an asymmetrical advantage to disadvantage ration for the residents of Paige. There is no purported benefit while there are tremendous risks to our community, our water, and our way of life. This project ensures rich Austenites are able to water their lawns.

Austin Water Response: Austin Water has committed to support the community by creating a local education center, exploring the creation of grants for local communities and organizations, exploring the possibilities of parks and trails on land used for the project, and making a certain amount of water available for Bastrop County partners to purchase pending development of future contractual agreements. We would also welcome feedback on what other local benefits the community would like to see from this project. Water Forward, Austin's 100-year integrated water resource plan, includes a strong emphasis on water conservation and water reuse. Austin has significantly reduced outdoor

water use with year-round one day per week watering restrictions for irrigation systems. We are committed to further reducing outdoor water use by transforming landscapes to be drought-tolerant, limiting the size of irrigation systems for single family homes, and increasing the use of non-potable water sources for outdoor irrigation. For more information about Austin's conservation programs, please visit this link (<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/saving-water-home>).

Comment 42.2

Name:**City:** Smithville

There is an assumption that 1 gallon of water put into the aquifer equates to one gallon available. How is this assumption made? How is there no loss of water? Displacing my water with runoff from Austin does not grant you access to pull that back out. Measuring gallons in vs gallons out does not tell the whole story.

Austin Water Response: By law, the amount of water that can be recovered from an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project cannot exceed the amount that is stored. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) carefully reviews each project application and sets recovery limits based on information from hydrogeologic studies and groundwater modeling. If TCEQ determines that injection of water will result in the loss of injected water or native groundwater, the Commission will place additional restrictions on the amount of water that may be recovered to account for the loss.

Comment 42.3

Name:**City:** Smithville

There is no mitigation plan to guarantee safe drinking water to locals in a contamination event.

Austin Water Response: If the ASR project proceeds to Phase 2 piloting, Austin Water will develop a mitigation plan and identify funding to implement mitigation strategies as necessary to address possible impacts from full-scale ASR project operations. This is one of the commitments Austin Water is making in the binding Collaboration Agreement. If the project proceeds to full-scale implementation, Austin Water will also perform water quality testing on water to be injected and water recovered from the ASR project and will provide those data to the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.

Comment 43

Name:**City:** Smithville

Will pulling from your "storage" effect the upper aquifers natural storage (you know... gravity, pressure?)

Austin Water Response: Gravity and pressure do affect how water moves underground, and we're taking that into account. In the area we are exploring, the Carrizo and Simsboro

aquifer layers are separated from the upper aquifer layers by natural confining layers. As part of our multi-year testing phase, we'll be closely studying how pressure changes might affect the system. If we find that pulling water from storage could impact nearby wells or upper aquifer layers, we're prepared to proactively mitigate those effects through our operations or mitigation plans. This could include deepening existing wells or connecting them to a nearby water provider, depending on the landowner's preference. Our goal is to protect the aquifer system and support the community every step of the way.

Comment 44

Name:

City: Smithville

How will this affect the rice farmers down south - who have water rights to Colorado River?

Austin Water Response: Water being stored for this project would come from Austin's existing water rights to the Colorado River and the City's existing contract for firm water supply from the Highland Lakes with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). The LCRA Water Management Plan (WMP) governs LCRA's operations of the Highland Lakes and the availability of interruptible stored water for agricultural customers. For more information, please visit this link (<https://www.lcra.org/water/water-supply-planning/water-management-plan-for-lower-colorado-river-basin/>).

Comment 45

Name:

City: Smithville

Why don't you use part of the 49k acres in Travis County to store the water - why won't the city of Austin allow it? What do they see wrong with idea.

Austin Water Response: During the initial phase of this project (Phase 1A Desktop Study), Austin Water considered a variety of locations for a potential ASR project. Based on this study, a portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Bastrop County and the Trinity Aquifer in Travis County have been identified as best suited for further study. Austin Water plans to conduct ASR field testing in the Trinity Aquifer in Travis County in parallel with the Bastrop County field testing. The aquifer characteristics under the City of Austin Wildlands (the referenced 49,000 acres) are not well-suited for an ASR project.

Comment 46

Name:

City: Smithville

Play in your own yard - we already pay your taxes & don't benefit from your influences either.

Austin Water Response: After completing a desktop study of aquifers in eight counties, a portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Bastrop County and the Trinity Aquifer in Travis County have been identified as best suited for further study. Austin Water plans to conduct

field testing in Travis County at the same time as the proposed field testing in Bastrop County.

We hope to continue to hear from Bastrop community members about what they would like to see in a partnership, and will continue to work to identify community benefits.

Comment 47

Name:

City: Smithville

What is Austin's plan for fixing the leaks in their water lines - old infrastructure?

Austin Water Response: Austin Water is committed to decreasing the water lost from the City's water system. Utility side water loss control is a component of Austin Water's 100-year Integrated Water Resource Plan, Water Forward

(https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/WaterForward/AW_WaterForward_Report_2024_Appendices.pdf).

Austin Water hired Black and Veatch to develop a water loss report with recommendations on how Austin Water can lower its water loss. The report

(https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/B%26V_Austin_Water_Loss_100124.pdf) was finished in October of 2024 and Austin Water is prioritizing the implementation of those recommendations to reduce water loss.

Comment 48

Name:

City: Smithville

Check temp of groundwater - may need cooling towers. Remove chlorine & fluoride before injecting

Austin Water Response: As part of our field testing phase, we'll be evaluating groundwater temperature, chemistry, and how treated drinking water interacts with the aquifer through testing in a laboratory. The goal is to understand if the stored water is compatible with the native groundwater, and any additional treatment that may be required before water is injected to minimize potential impacts to the aquifer system.

Comment 49.1

Name:

City: Smithville

What sustainability and eco-friendly options does Austin/Travis Co. and Bastrop County have? Would you consider wide-spread rainwater collection/harvesting?

Austin Water Response: Austin Water offers a rebate program for our customers to install Rainwater Harvesting systems (<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/saving-water-home#strongResidentialRebatesstrong>). This program is one of the many strategies we are using to encourage water conservation. Austin Water is open to extending rebates to Bastrop County residents as a community benefit of the ASR project.

Comment 49.2

Name:

City: Smithville

What can the average citizen/resident do to stay informed about local/state/national/global H2O (water) issues? Thank you!

Austin Water Response: To stay informed about Austin's Aquifer Storage and Recovery project, you can visit the project website or sign up for email updates (<https://www.speakupaustin.org/asr>). For more general involvement in water, we recommend looking into your local groundwater conservation district (Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District serves the Bastrop County area). The Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (Region K) (<https://www.regionk.org/>) includes Bastrop County, Austin and other water users in the basin who work together to develop a comprehensive water plan for the region.

Comment 50.1

Name:

City: Smithville

How are older wells watched? Not on groundwater list.

Austin Water Response: Austin Water will work with the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District and with landowners to identify locations of wells in the proposed area for the project.

Comment 50.2

Name:

City: Smithville

Effect of personal property values? Option to expand on our property - add family dwellings?

Austin Water Response: Since the project is in very early stages, we have not started discussions with individual landowners about property values and future uses of property at this time. We have provided an overview of what to expect in a handout for landowners (https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/WaterForward/ASR1B_Landowner-Factsheet_09.09.2025.pdf).

Comment 50.3

Name:

City: Smithville

Difference between injected water vs natural filtration?

Austin Water Response: The key difference is that natural filtration happens slowly as rainwater moves through soil and rock layers before reaching the aquifer, while in Austin's ASR project, treated drinking water would be carefully injected directly into a deeper, confined part of the aquifer. The water that would be injected is already treated to meet or exceed all state and federal drinking water standards, so it's clean and safe before it even

enters the ground. During our multi-year testing phase, we'll study how Austin's drinking water interacts with the aquifer to make sure it doesn't cause any unintended effects. We're taking a cautious, science-based approach to ensure the aquifer stays protected. The Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer is made up of dense rock and sand that water moves through slowly. During ASR operations, we would inject water slowly into the aquifer and operate the injection wells to minimize the drift of water underground and maintain stored water under the established buffer area.

Comment 50.4

Name:

City: Smithville

Bring in scientific & effected knowledge to discuss to group vs communication/diplomatic jargin. Let public hear others questions & concerns instead of isolated discussion.

Austin Water Response: We will consider other formats for future meetings.

Comment 51.1

Name:

City: Smithville

DOES NOT benefit BC in any way. Concerned citizens do NOT want COS to sign and MOU.

Austin Water Response: Thank you for your feedback. Austin Water has committed to support the community by creating a local education center, exploring the creation of grants for local communities and organizations, exploring the possibilities of parks and trails on land used for the project, and making a certain amount of water available for Bastrop County partners to buy purchase pending development of future contractual agreements. We would also welcome feedback on what other local benefits the community would like to see from this project.

Comment 51.2

Name:

City: Smithville

Been said - state standards will apply to injected water but how does than compare to our (BC) existing water quality? If Bastrop Co. Resources require going deeper than currently... will that prevent us from doing so?

Austin Water Response: All municipal drinking water, regardless of where it comes from, must meet state and federal water quality standards before it can be used or stored. That includes the water we plan to store in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. We understand that Bastrop County's existing groundwater has a different water quality, which is why we're conducting field testing to understand how Austin's drinking water may interact with the native groundwater. There are currently no wells in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in the area and depth where we plan to conduct field testing. Existing domestic and agricultural wells in the region draw from shallower aquifers that are separated from the Carrizo-Wilcox by a natural confining layer. Over the next few years, our testing will help us better understand

how this project might affect nearby wells. If the project proceeds to future phases, we'll develop a mitigation plan to address any potential impacts, such as adjusting operations or supporting landowners if deeper wells are needed in the future.

Comment 51.3

Name:

City: Smithville

What is the water line route? how deep from water source to destination?

Austin Water Response: We are still very early in the project and have not finalized the location of the ASR wellfield. After the location of the wellfield has been finalized, we will be able to develop the transmission main route, locations of pump stations, and point of integration into our distribution system. We will aim to use right-of-way to route the transmission main as much as possible. Where property acquisition is needed, we will work with willing landowners for easements or purchases and will not use eminent domain in Bastrop County for this project.

Comment 52

Name:

City: Smithville

Water is a mineral right. Landowners should be paid for it like oil!!

Austin Water Response: Since the project is in very early stages, we have not started discussions with individual landowners about compensation at this time. We have provided an overview of what to expect in a handout for landowners (https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/WaterForward/ASR1B_Landowner-Factsheet_09.09.2025.pdf).

Sept 19 | Smithville Office Hours Comments

Comment 54

Name: Ted Boriack

City: Gonzalez County

Water quality -Risk/damage -what would we do if there are impacts -Cost no new water - engineers/consultants accountable? -wells run dry? -ADR -population growth -mitigation plan? example- Gonzales Co. (wells) -horrible plan -State of Texas Water Plan - horrible Rainwater

Austin Water Response: We are still very early in the project, and we are taking a cautious, science-based approach. We will begin with a three-year field testing phase followed by three years of pilot testing to test water quality, ASR operations, and potential environmental impacts. An ASR Technical Advisory Group that will include technical representatives from Bastrop County entities will provide input from the beginning to the

completion of the Field Testing Phase of the project. The ASR Technical Advisory Group will include technical representatives from Bastrop County including Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District, Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund, Aqua Water Supply Corporation, Bastrop County Water Control Improvement District #2 and Austin Water. If the ASR project proceeds to Phase 2 piloting, Austin Water will develop a mitigation plan and identify funding to implement mitigation strategies as necessary to address possible impacts from full-scale ASR project operations. This project does not involve taking native groundwater and aligns with Austin's Water Forward plan, which focuses on long-term sustainability and relies on water conservation, reducing water loss, and increasing the use of reclaimed water in addition to strategies like ASR. We are committed to listening to the community, learning from past examples, and working together to realize project benefits for everyone involved.

Speak Up Austin (website) Comments

Comment 55

Name:

City:

Paige and Bastrop County residents do not directly or quantifiably benefit from the proposed Austin ASR project. Rather, it presents a serious threat to our local aquifer system's long-term viability. Water availability and quality for current rural communities, agricultural users, and home wells are at risk when large amounts of treated water are injected into the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer without a thorough understanding of the long-term geochemical effects, pressure dynamics, or leakage potential. This project puts Austin's urban water security ahead of the already-stressed groundwater resources in the countryside. In particular, when it circumvents genuine community involvement and compromises the groundwater conservation objectives established by local Groundwater Conservation Districts, we vehemently oppose the commodification and export of local groundwater for external municipal benefit.

Austin Water Response: Austin's proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project does not take native groundwater from the aquifer in Bastrop County. The project would store some of Austin's drinking water in the aquifer, and we would always put more water in than we would take out.

Protecting water quality and the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is one of our top priorities, as the success of this water storage project depends on keeping the aquifer healthy. To support this goal, a three-year field-testing phase is planned where we'll collect groundwater and core samples from the aquifer and test how they interact with Austin Water's drinking water. All of this water quality testing will happen in a lab, and the results will help us understand whether any adjustments are needed to make sure the water we store is fully compatible with the aquifer. This careful, science-based approach helps us protect this important natural resource while planning for the region's future water needs.

There are currently no wells in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in the area and depth where we plan to conduct field testing. Existing domestic and agricultural wells in the region draw from shallower aquifers that are separated from the Carrizo-Wilcox by a natural confining layer.

If the project proceeds after field testing, we'll begin a small-scale pilot phase lasting about three more years, where we'll inject water that is similar to the City of Austin drinking water to test water quality, operational, and other parameters. Only after successful piloting would we consider going to full-scale implementation.

Comment 56

Name:

City:

How Come you have not notified or set down with Local WSC's that have wells in the project area?

Austin Water Response: There are currently no wells in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in the area and depth where we plan to conduct field testing. Austin Water has talked with local water providers during recent open house meetings and presentations in Bastrop County. We will continue this collaboration throughout the project.

We are still very early in the project and have not finalized the preferred location of the potential ASR wellfield. Should this project proceed, after the location of the wellfield has been identified, we will be able to develop the transmission main route, locations of pump stations, and point of integration into our distribution system. We will aim to use right-of-way to route the transmission main as much as possible. Where property acquisition is needed, we will work with willing landowners for easements or purchases and will not use eminent domain in Bastrop County for this project.

Comment 57

Name:

City:

Leave our water alone

Austin Water Response: Thank you for your feedback.

Comment 58

Name:

City:

Are they getting the water out of our Aquife? Aqua Water Co. Was trying to stop them from doing that! 😭😭😭😭!

Austin Water Response: Austin's proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project does not take native groundwater from the aquifer in Bastrop County. The project would store some of Austin's drinking water in the aquifer, and we would always put more water in than we would take out.

Comment 59

Name:**City:**

I am against this ASR because I live in Bastrop County and we have just gone on Stage 2 watering with Aqua Water. Stay out of our aquifer! Too bad if you don't have enough water! It's bad enough that San Antonio is pulling water out of our aquifer as well as some other companies!

Austin Water Response: We understand that everyone in our region is facing water supply issues as we plan for the future. The Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (Region K) includes Bastrop County, Austin and other water users in the basin who work together to develop a comprehensive water plan for the region. Austin's proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project does not take native groundwater from the aquifer in Bastrop County. The project would store some of Austin's drinking water in the aquifer, and we would always put more water in than we would take out.

Comment 60

Name:**City:**

THE RESIDENTS OF BASTROP COUNTY DO NOT WANT THIS. Do it in your own sandbox and stop trying to steal from us. When was the last time Austin was in a surplus of water?? That is why you are trying to take from Bastrop. You would never put water back into the storage and would just suck Bastrop dry. WE DON'T WANT THIS.

Austin Water Response: Austin's proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project does not take native groundwater from the aquifer in Bastrop County. The project would store some of Austin's water in the aquifer, and we would always put more water in than we would take out.

After completing a desktop study of aquifers in eight counties, a portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Bastrop County and the Trinity Aquifer in Travis County have been identified as best suited for further study. Austin Water plans to conduct field testing in Travis County at the same time as the proposed field testing in Bastrop County.

Email Comments

Comment 61

Name:**City:**

I understand the geological reasons this location was selected. Were their population variables (e.g., population density or average parcel size) that also went into the decision?

Austin Water Response:

Yes. Our desktop study included many hydrogeologic factors and implementation factors. The implementation factors included parcel size and land use.

Comment 62

Name:

City:

If you complete the field testing but could not proceed with pilot ASR testing for any number of reasons, what other locations did the desktop analysis find that were also suitable for the project?

Austin Water Response: After completing a desktop study of aquifers in eight counties, a portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Bastrop County and the Trinity Aquifer in Travis County have been identified as best suited for further study. Austin Water plans to conduct field testing in Travis County at the same time as the proposed field testing in Bastrop County. If, based on the results of this testing, a decision is made not to proceed to the pilot phase, Austin Water will continue advancing alternative water supply strategies identified in the Water Forward Plan.

Comment 63

Name:

City:

How will you obtain water from the aquifer for laboratory testing? Is this from an existing well in the area?

Austin Water Response: During the field testing phase of the project, Austin Water would drill two wells on the same property in Bastrop County and one well on City of Austin-owned land in Travis County for testing.

Comment 64

Name:

City:

Among the concerns from the "friendly opposition," I think injecting PFAS into the aquifer has the most risk. Is Austin Water doing any geochemical modeling during the lab testing phase to minimize impact of PFAS in the aquifer?

Austin Water Response: We understand that PFAS is a concern. In the binding Collaboration Agreement, Austin Water has committed to "Develop a policy statement for the purposes of the potential ASR project in Bastrop County that addresses both regulated and unregulated contaminants." We will provide updates and seek feedback on this policy statement.

Comment 65

Name:

City:

If we get all the way to Phase 3, how will you prioritize community commitments such as trails open to the public?

Austin Water Response: If the project proceeds to full implementation, we will continue working closely with community stakeholders to ensure that local priorities, such as public trails and other community benefits, are thoughtfully considered and incorporated. Just as we've established a binding agreement for the current phase, we plan to create additional agreements in future phases to formalize and uphold our commitments to the community.

Comment 66

Name:

City:

Would it be the technical advisory group or Austin Water that determines whether there are grants for local organizations?

Austin Water Response: Austin Water will continue to engage with Bastrop County stakeholders and residents throughout the project. We will seek feedback from stakeholders about project benefits. Ultimately, any benefits must be approved by Austin Water or the Austin City Council in future phases of the project. Just as we've established a binding agreement for the current phase, we plan to create additional agreements in future phases to formalize and uphold our commitments to the community.

Comment 67

Name:

City:

Can you provide any examples of current or past grants distributed as part of similar Austin Water programs?

Austin Water Response: Austin Water gives back to the communities we serve through annual sponsorships to non-profits throughout Central Texas that support water conservation, K-12 education and other learning opportunities, and equity. This financial support is extended to around 25 different organizations and typically exceeds \$150,000 total each year. In addition to supporting vibrant and diverse community organizations each year, Austin Water helps our most vulnerable customers by addressing concerns about affordability in our region. We seek savings through cost containment, debt management, and innovations in technology and processes. These cost savings are then passed along to customers. Austin Water's Customer Assistance Program (CAP), designed to support low-income customers, is among the best in the country and offers some of the deepest discounts and most robust assistance to customers in need. Our Customer Assistance Program provides a 52% discount to eligible customers.

Austin Water offers rebates for residential and commercial customers to help customers take actions to save water. You can learn more at this link

(<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/rebates-tools-programs#strongResidentialRebatesstrong>).

Mailed Comments

Comment 68

Name: Kermit Heaton

City:

Partnership For Protection
COMMENTS

NAME: Kermit D. Heaton
(From 9/13/25, Paige Open House Meeting)
Approval to Please email me at derfrosch1@me.com

1. Please confirm your receipt of my comments to the email above.
2. The concept of your ASR program is good, but the 'devil is the details' definitely applies in this type of situation. Any person or group of persons will never be able to take into consideration the wonders of the creation that is the ground water system that makes Texas possible. This means that ALL inputs need to be considered, that transparency in the planning and implementation (initial, on-going, and forever) stages, and that proper and safe responses for failure to meet these criterion are required in initial, on-going, and forever situations.
3. What are the written criteria that ALL stake holders can agree to; BEFORE implementation that will result in STOPPING the project until those criteria can be attained?
4. How can Bastrop (County government or individuals) stop the project if harmed?
5. There needs to be a criterion in 3. above that identifies when Austin Water CANNOT use eminent domain, instead of 'refrain' from using eminent domain. Refrain just means that Austin Water will make you an offer and you must take it, PERIOD. That refrain is completely unacceptable.
6. Please explain how TRANSPARANCY of ALL information will be provided to ALL groups and individuals involved.
7. How will the City of Austin be kept from changing the project to different unilateral practices and policies after implantation? (see 4. above)
8. What is the history of periods when water would have been pumped into the aquifer and when water would have been pumped out of the aquifer? Just averages is NOT sufficient! While averages have uses, it is also possible to use averages that say if you are sitting with one foot in boiling oil and the other in liquid nitrogen, that on the average you are just right, when you are not! This should be a basis for one or more of the written criteria in 3. above.



PARTNERSHIP FOR PROTECTION

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: KERMIT HEATON (optional)

9/13/25 PAGE OPEN HOUSE

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at DERFAOSCH1@ME.COM

Yes, please call me at _____

1. PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THESE COMMENTS
2. WHAT IS THE CRITERIA; THAT IF EXCEEDED,
WOULD STOP THE PROJECT
3. HOW CAN BASTROP (COUNTY GOVT OR COUNTY
CITIZENS) STOP THE PROJECT IF HARMED
4. EXPLAIN WHAT THE BUFFER ZONE (DETAILS)
IS AND HOW IT WILL BE MONITORED
5. EXPLAIN HOW "REFRAIN" FROM EMINENT
DOMAIN IS DIFFERENT FROM YOU SET
A PRICE + FORCE LAND OWNER / RESIDENT
FROM TAXING IT.
6. EXPLAIN HOW TRANSPARENCY OF ALL
INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED
TO ALL ~~THE~~ GROUPS/INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED
7. HOW WILL THE CITY OF AUSTIN REACT FROM
CHANGING THE PROJECT TO DIFFERENT
PRACTICES, AFTER IMPLEMENTATION



Austin Water Response:

1. We have emailed confirmation of receipt.
2. Protecting water quality and the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is one of our top priorities, as the success of this water storage project depends on keeping the aquifer healthy. To support this goal, a three-year field testing phase is planned where we'll collect groundwater and core samples from the aquifer and test how they interact with Austin Water's drinking water. All of this water quality testing will happen in a lab, and the results will help us understand whether any adjustments are needed to make sure the water we store is fully compatible with the aquifer. This careful, science-based approach helps us protect this important natural resource while planning for the region's future water needs.
3. Austin Water will work with an ASR Technical Advisory Group that will include technical representatives from Bastrop County entities during the Field Testing Phase of the project. Entities that will have representatives on the TAG include Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District, Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund, Aqua Water Supply Corporation, Bastrop County Water Control Improvement District #2, and Austin Water. They will review testing protocols and criteria for the project.
4. If this project moves to future phases, Austin Water will submit an application for ASR project authorization to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. TCEQ will be the regulatory body that residents can take their potential concerns to.
5. In the binding Collaboration Agreement with local stakeholders, the City of Austin has committed to not use eminent domain in Bastrop County for this project. If the project moves beyond the testing phase, we will be working with willing landowners.
6. Austin Water is committed to providing all data and information provided to the ASR Technical Advisory Group publicly. The information will be posted on a website.
7. If we move forward into full implementation of the project, we will continue working closely with community stakeholders to thoughtfully consider and incorporate local priorities. Just as we've established a binding agreement for the field-testing phase, we plan to create additional agreements in future phases to formalize and uphold our commitments to the community.
8. Water supply modeling performed for the creation of Austin's Water Forward Plan, shows that excess water is available during wet periods that can be stored in an ASR project.



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STAN GERDES

DISTRICT 17

November 11, 2025

The Honorable Kirk Watson
Mayor, City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

RE: Request for Reconsideration of Austin's Proposed Bastrop County ASR Project and MOU

Dear Mayor Watson and Members of the Austin City Council;

I am writing to urge the City of Austin to immediately reconsider its plan to move forward with the proposed Aquifer Storage & Recovery project in Bastrop County and the signing of the related MOU. The people of Bastrop County could not have been clearer in their opposition. Residents have packed every meeting, submitted countless comments, and raised legitimate concerns—but their voices have fallen on deaf ears at City Hall.

The root issue is trust. From the day this project was announced in 2021, Austin has struggled to earn it. A lack of early communication and an approach where Austin Water dictated the terms rather than engaged as a partner created deep local skepticism. When Austin did come to the table, it only did so after I filed legislation to restrict this project. The community meetings that followed did not repair trust or provide full answers. That is why **not a single elected official in Bastrop County has supported the MOU or the ASR project behind it**—a fact carries real weight.

Crossing county lines to inject treated water into an aquifer that serves another community is not responsible planning. It is overreach, plain and simple, and it plants a permanent flag of authority in a county that has made its objections known.

The truth is: Austin has other options. **The City can address the almost 30,000 acre-feet of water losses identified in its own audit, pursue smaller but viable sites within Travis County, and manage its resources responsibly without imposing on Bastrop County landowners.**

Signing this MOU would commit Austin taxpayers to millions of dollars in spending for a project that faces unanimous opposition from the citizens of Bastrop County. I have already passed legislation to block this overreach once and will continue to use every legislative and lawful tool available to stop it permanently.



P.O. BOX 2910 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910 • p (512) 463-0682
stan.gerdes@house.texas.gov

Moving forward now would only invite additional roadblocks and waste more of Austin's taxpayer dollars on a project that will inevitably be stopped. The Legislature has already demonstrated strong interest in clarifying how cross-jurisdictional ASR projects are handled, and any attempt to advance a project with zero local support will only accelerate that scrutiny.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the City of Austin to pause, reconsider, and respect the clear and overwhelming opposition from the people who actually live above this aquifer. Bastrop County has a strong voice and it deserves to be heard.

Sincerely,

Stan Gerdes

STAN GERDES

State Representative
Texas House of Representatives

cc: Members, Austin City Council
cc: Members, Austin Water and Wastewater Commission



P.O. BOX 2910 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910 • p (512) 463-0682
stan.gerdes@house.texas.gov

Questionnaire Results

ASR Community Questionnaire

[Edit](#)

September 2025

Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS
356	66	1,114	116

What are the most important aspects about your life in Bastrop County? (check all that apply)

75%	Beautiful scenery and land	47 ✓
57%	Culture and way of life	36 ✓
48%	Affordability	30 ✓
44%	Quieter city with proximity to bigger cities for work	28 ✓
37%	Other	23 ✓

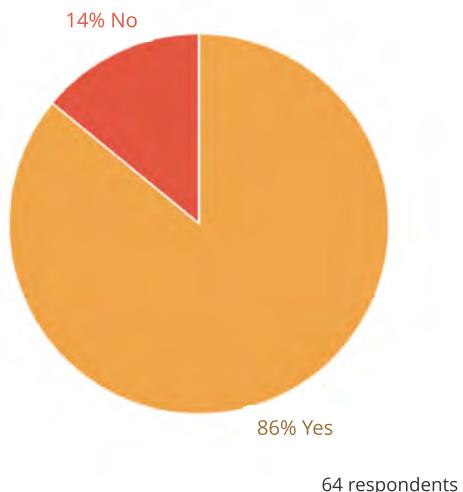
63 Respondents

What are your biggest concerns about the development and changes happening in Bastrop County? (check all that apply)

74%	Strain on public utilities – power, water	46 ✓
69%	Traffic	43 ✓
69%	Maintaining the natural landscape	43 ✓
58%	Changes due to development pressures	36 ✓
42%	Changes to the culture	26 ✓
32%	Other	20 ✓

62 Respondents

Have you heard about the potential project with Austin to store water in Bastrop County (known as Aquifer Storage and Recovery)?



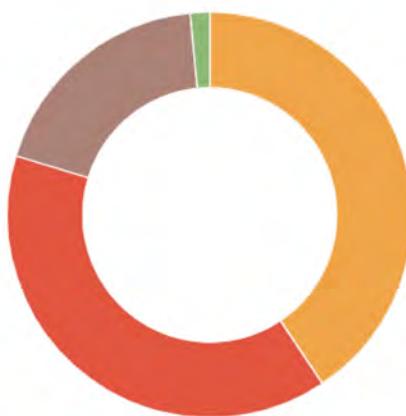
64 respondents

If yes, how did you hear about it?



54 respondents

How do you receive water at your residence?



41	I own my own well
%	
39	Aqua Water Supply Corporation
%	
19	Municipal water provider
%	
2%	Other

64 respondents

What are the most pressing water issues for your community? (Check all that apply.)

74%	Water Quality	46 ✓
47%	Availability of water service	29 ✓
35%	Water levels in my well	22 ✓
34%	Cost of Water	21 ✓
23%	Other	14 ✓

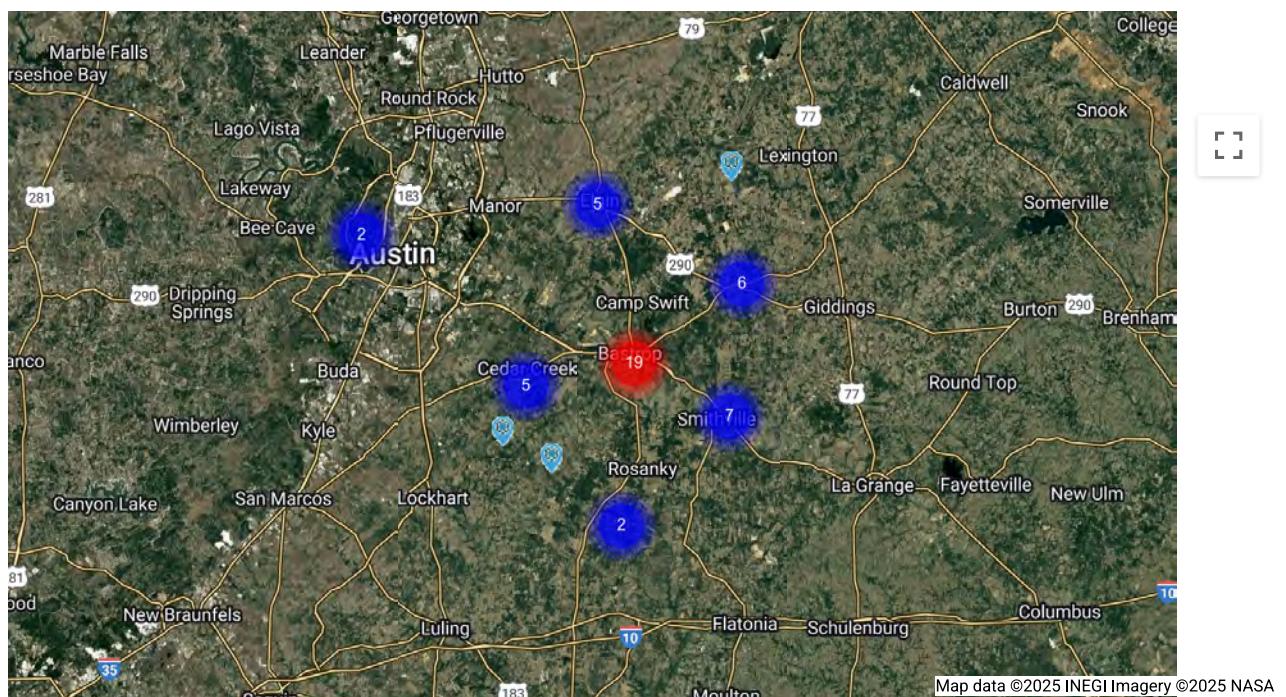
62 Respondents

Which of the following best describes where you live?

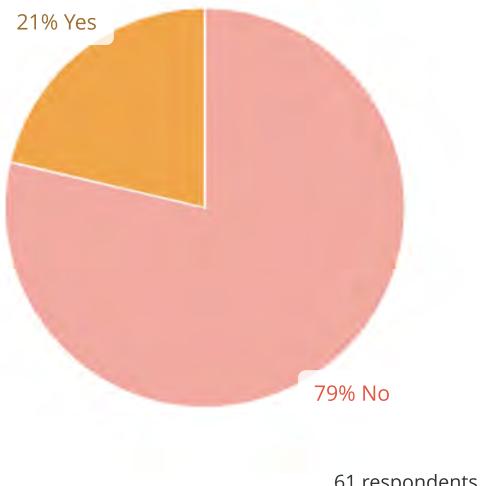


64 respondents

What is your zip code?



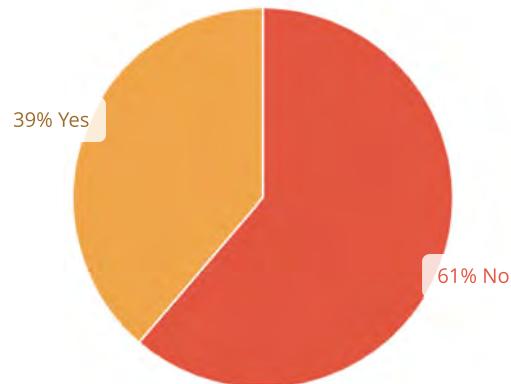
Do you operate or work for a business that directly relies on local water supplies for your production or products?



Which of the following best describes your work?



Do you or your family operate a farm or ranch in Bastrop County?



62 respondents

How would you like to receive updates about the potential water project with Austin in the future? (check all that apply)

77%	Email from Austin Water	46 ✓
48%	From local elected officials	29 ✓
42%	Local news story	25 ✓
37%	Social Media	22 ✓
8%	Other	5 ✓

60 Respondents

Do you have additional questions about water issues in the area?

The Colorado has become so polluted that it's one huge algae bloom around the Wilbarger Bend which can't be good for the water quality. Also the drain on the aquafir from SpaceX & The Boring Co, which is planning to expand tremendously, as well as data mining operations that continue to move into the County are already having a negative impact on local private drinking wells in terms of both quality and volume. This opinion is based on personal observations. Has the ASR project taken these issues into account in terms of both current and future impacts on water in Bastrop? Are there any provisions in the project to assist private well owners with regular monitoring/testing of their wells. Lab costs are prohibitive for many residents. But such monitoring and testing is necessary to ensure safe drinking water for everyone.

10/2/2025

I do not have questions. I went to the Austin Water Open House in Paige. I am very concerned about this project and very much against it. I do not believe that a study in a lab can give accurate information about what will happen in real life. Also, it's a terrible idea to introduce water from completely different bodies of water, including treated water, into an aquifer. Terrible idea. It's a definite "No"!

9/30/2025

Why should we help Austin Water when you let over 15 BILLION GALLONS of water run down the street
In 2 years of water leaks !! There is NO excuse for this .

9/24/2025

What's the benefit to Bastrop County?

9/19/2025

Legal rights for residents in the case the project goes forward.

9/19/2025

Why is it when things get tight or scarce, you start looking to exploit surrounding communities to ensure Austin has what it needs?

9/18/2025

No water issue in our area and I would like to keep it that way.

So far, this recovery ASR project has demonstrated nothing but an alarming imbalance between its potential benefits and its very real disadvantages. The primary issue is the asymmetry of impacts: while certain groups may reap operational gains while the our local residents is left with the risks.

What about the The Endangered Species Act regarding the Houston Toad zone? was this part of your site consideration?

If you want to be a good neighbor and build a strong relationship, then maybe don't disturb people's lives in the first place. I don't know if we would qualify as neighbor considering all 50+ miles distant between us.

9/16/2025

Will the current water system be mixed with other sources? Quimicals?

9/15/2025

Austin's water issues should not be Bastrop's water issues. Bastrop is growing and needs all the water it has to maintain for Bastrop residence.

9/12/2025

I am well-acquainted with many of the aquifer systems of Texas, especially the Gulf Coast, Central Texas and Trans-Pecos regions of the state. My doctoral research in hydrogeology (UT-Austin) dealt with groundwater systems of Hudspeth County, TX, and much of my work as a consultant was centered in the Austin region. Although I am retired, I would be pleased to offer my services as a volunteer hydrogeologist in matters related to the development and management of the groundwater resources of Bastrop and surrounding counties. Bruce K Darling, PhD, Bastrop, TX (512) 545-4714

9/12/2025

Have landowners affected by the need for 200 acres needed for wells, facilities, and aboveground improvements been notified?

9/10/2025

I do not

9/10/2025

Many questions. Will attend one or more meetings.

9/10/2025

Chemicals in the water that destroyed our copper pipes. Strong smell of chlorine that turns the sink bowl yellow. the fluoride needs removed how many glasses of water are still safe + the amount is in the paste? Instead provide a toothbrush & paste for those in need. My concern is the contamination this project will cause of the pristine clear water? This will only benefit Travis County, the Carrizo-Wilcox is a slow draw down once contaminated there will be turning back!

9/9/2025

I'm concerned about the massive growth of Travis and Bastrop Counties to not have enough water for future generations.

9/9/2025

none

9/8/2025

I hope all meetings will be open to the public & full transparency will be part of this proposed study.
Final decisions based on accurate, verifiable science must override any good ole boy back room deal making.

9/7/2025

Bastrop and Lee County are always having to battle against defending our water, rivers, streams, wells, ag. Beginning years ago with Alcoa, San Antonio and all in between to now!

9/5/2025

Bastrop and Lee County are worn down defending our water, rivers, streams, wells, ag and rights. Been fighting this since Alcoa to now.

9/5/2025

How much did you pay Kirk Watson to sit and lie for you?

9/4/2025

I think Bastrop County residents would like to have greater visibility and understanding of how Aqua currently sources water and how those current sources of water are expected to keep up with demand as the Bastrop County population grows. Without this base knowledge, it will be difficult for most residents to form opinions about how they want their aquifer and water to interact with another county's needs.

9/4/2025

Not a question. But I'm skeptical/mistrustful of the proposal. I don't trust politicians or the corporate executives who stand to make a lot of money from the proposed project to be honest about the potential negative consequences of said project.

9/3/2025

How much financial stake does officials at Aqua Water have in Austin Water? Is this project because Aqua cannot provide treated water to its customers so now needs Austin Water?

9/2/2025

How will the water storage impact flooding, stability of land, value of land, etc.

8/31/2025

I have low water pressure already, and worried Austin will use more of share of the water.

8/30/2025

Stop this project

8/29/2025

Why is Austin in Bastrop looking for water. Why not Austin?

8/29/2025

Why would Austin Water want to
do a three year study on an aquifer in Bastrop?

8/28/2025

How will this project benefit the residents of Bastrop County?

8/28/2025

Bastrop has enough water problems. Austin, Stay in your own town.

8/28/2025

who testing this water?

8/26/2025

I heard there was a dangerous chemical that we are testing for that treated water and iron minerals in the soil can produce what would that be? And what hazard would you be testing for?

8/26/2025

How much water do you plan to inject into an Aquifer at one time?

How much do you plan to take at one time?

If Austin takes water will this be done when Bastrop is in a drought?

How will this effect tax payers in Bastrop County?

Which aquifer will you be injecting into?

Why was this kept quite from Bastrop County citizens that this was going to be a possibility?

Why cant Austin use the Edwards Aquifer?

If people get sick due to this injection of water into and aquifer will Austin be held legally liable?

8/26/2025

are presenters available for our Smithville Sustainability Fair Oct 4

8/26/2025

How to engage in local dialogs?

8/26/2025

What is the environmental impact this would have on our aquifer (short and long term)?

What safety concerns to humans and animals would come with this type of project?

Have other similar projects been implemented elsewhere and if so, what have been the outcomes via data?

Are there more risks than pros?

What will this cost us as tax payers?

8/25/2025

Thomas Turfgrass hogs water. Period. Rule of capture. Without a "throttle" on them and other hi use already water hogs above ground and below this project will fail period!! Bastrop county already has a big ugly company polluting our air with the stench of death and rotting flesh. TCEQ has failed miserably to cease the toxic stench. Why can we believe ANYONE IN GOVERNMENT IF THESE KINDS OF WELL CONNECTED ENTITIES SKIRT LAWS AND JUST PAY MINISCULE FINES?

8/25/2025

We grass roots residents of Bastrop county don't want any interference at all with our already suffering water supply.

8/24/2025

Do not want Austin taking water from BASTROP water resources . Period dash dot.

8/23/2025

You're attempting to hide in plain sight, with minimal (I'm sure statutory obligations of of communications)...communicate better...why hide ???

8/23/2025

No

8/22/2025

Why are using Bastrop, when we are already sending water to other areas?

8/19/2025

who will oversee the quality of water that we are storing

8/19/2025

i'm a local outfitter and I see a very poor quality of water

8/19/2025

what will happen when our minerals from the soil don't mix with the chemicals it makes a toxic out come ??? (like SA)

8/19/2025

All communities have to live within their available infrastructure. Putting our water resource in a "community pool" that can be drawn down by largest community will jeopardize our already strained and limited resource.

8/19/2025

Why not ask to purchase water from Bastrop County? Does Bastrop county have the option to refuse water from Austin and instead bank their own if the technology is safe?

8/19/2025

Original Documents

Contact information has been redacted
to protect privacy of commenters.

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

1. I like the format of having the stations.
2. I better understand the aquifer formations and the science after attending.
3. Your Bastrop City meetings are at 4:00 pm and 11 am. You need a meeting after working hours so more people can attend and be educated.



COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

How are you Testing the water.

How will public KNOW the results.

How do we Know your water
is Safe.



2

COMMENTS

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CAN you commit 100% to NOT USE Chemicals Down the drain.
Austin Water wastes a lot of water via LEAKS in the system
How can you commit & limit that loss Before you pollute
the aquifer?

How CAN you GUARANTEE that the project won't ENLARGE
in the future continuing to jeopardize the QUALITY of the
Aquifer? (The Chemical use is under the test)



3

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

I was told the Stakeholders will have a say in this project (Bastrop City). What about those who live in the country?



COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

<p>① Don't mess with our aquifer! Honest mistakes can be made. If a "mistake" is put in the aquifer it can't be undone.</p>	<p>② If the project is started then stopped - the changes made will not be made back -</p>
	<p>③ If you want to go forward Do it in Travis County -</p>



5

COMMENTS

9325
Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

I am not pleased that the current landowners of the proposed aquifer testing sites have not been notified of location and proposition of proposed aquifer site. The land owners should be the first citizens to be notified of proposition. How does the aquifer affect the existing water wells and how will citizens water not be contaminated?



6



Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at [REDACTED]

Yes, please call me at [REDACTED]

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

How will you test for those things you DONT Know About?

ex. PCBs were NOT originally known as BAD,
ONCE they are in the aquifer HOW will you fix/mitigate THAT?
if you DONT know what you DONT know.

FAULT LINES exist in the aquifer. HOW DO you keep INTER STRATA
TRANSMISSION?

AUSTIN HAS BAD TASTING water from MINERALS. HOW DO you plan to
remove these minerals from ~~POPPY~~ POLLUTORS of the AQUFER
those minerals DO NOT exist in the AQUFER



X

7

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

The questions I asked are just buy 'hedged" on. I don't want treated water injected into our aquifer... I'm sorry that Austin now needs a "holding tank" for their water, but we are not the area to choose! Please don't inject into our aquifer... you don't have the standards. The damage in the future cannot be redacted!



COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

I want to hear input from Aqua Water, our supplier to hear their take and judgement of the project!



COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

First emotion is being skeptical of Austin Water even touching our aquifer.

Agree that we are all having water issues, that will only grow as urban and commercial sprawl continue.

The largest part of the region usage is in Austin/Tavis County. Still skeptical.



10

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Your failure to plan ahead and to live within your means is not our problem or risk. From its inception, Austin elected to live on ~~the~~ surface water. Mansfield is a giant dam and there are a whole series of lakes above it. You/LCRA are selectively planning buildings downstream reservoirs. Bastrop used to use ~~the~~ ~~surface~~ surface water from Colorado River (your source) but decided it was too difficult/expensive to treat to our standards now so, use groundwater. Clean up your own house first! During the debate about Treatment Plant 4, there were claims that you lost 50% of your treated water to system leaks. I understand →



Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at _____
 Yes, please call me at _____

officer, experts and contractors are hosting us? When & where are moving.

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

3

Aquifers run for tens or hundreds of miles. Supper separation can be affected sharply by many things - unknown fault lines, unknown/antique wells of various sorts and earth fissures/earth quakes - that are more and more frequent. The Aquifer ~~health~~ health and recharge are matters of ~~decades~~ decades, centuries and even 9 thousand years or more. It is the hubris for the city of Austin to pretend that they understand our aquifer now or in the future.



PARTNERSHIP FOR PROTECTION

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

I like the format of the meeting -- from a walk around open house / stations.

Please post the time ranges for the open house meeting. You only include the start time. This would allow more individuals to participate.

Ditch the purple on your pens.

Thank you for
the snacks.



12

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

For your Male presenters, lose the slim chinos, and dress sneakers. Your audience is homeowners, ranchers, land owners, etc. not office workers. Get some boots and straight cut blue jeans or a coat with slacks and traditional dress shoes. Know your audience and don't dress like an Austin office. dress like Texas
It'll make you look more relatable. Look like the locals



13

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Mark Wyatt - please see
attached comments.

Thank you.



No "Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)" in Paige

SUMMARY: The Paige Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project by Austin Water will forever contaminate the pure aquifers with chemicals that are currently known to have serious health dangers yet are not presently regulated and removed when the water is treated to current Safe Drinking Water regulations (National Primary Drinking Water Regulations) prior to injection. This creates a serious health risk for water well owners and reduces land values for all landowners in the affected Paige area with no available remedy or remediation possible. The Paige area will be forever known as having contaminated well water and the real estate in the Paige region will have the stigma of contaminated/polluted water.

Background: The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets the legal limits on over 90 contaminants in drinking water. However, there are many other contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Every five years EPA reviews the list of contaminants, largely based on the Contaminant Candidate List, and makes a determination of contaminants that pose a public health risk, develops safe standards through rule-making, and adds them to the updated list of contaminants that must be removed from treated water to ensure public health.

This danger of unregulated chemicals found in treated surface water being injected into pure aquifers is not just speculation or hyperbole. A recent example of new dangerous surface water chemicals being identified and added to the regulated list is Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) that are linked to certain cancers and are considered by some to be carcinogenic. Studies have associated PFAS exposure with increased risks of cancers such as kidney cancer, testicular cancer, melanoma, and uterine cancer. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified one specific PFAS, PFOA, as "carcinogenic to humans". These dangerous carcinogens do not have to be removed from treated drinking water as of this date. EPA determined in 2024 they should establish legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for these dangerous chemicals. (Some PFAS variants were recently removed and the compliance date for the remaining ones extended.)

Danger of ASR: Water treated prior to injection could contain these dangerous PFAS chemicals or other chemicals that in the future may be added as regulated contaminants. Just because the water is treated before injection to today's standard does not make it safe or free from "forever contaminants or pollutants". New chemicals will be determined in the future to be just as dangerous to public health as PFAS recently were, but since not removed under today's drinking water treatment standards, they will be forever in the aquifer water under the Paige land. These chemicals from treated Austin Water sources will contaminate the current pure, clean water in the aquifers under the Paige land.

Water well users: Once these "forever pollutants" are injected through Aquifer Storage and Recovery, there is no practical way for a well owner to ever remove them from their drinking water. Once the future "PFAS-like" chemical is injected, a well owner cannot remove it to make their drinking water safe for consumption.

All landowners affected: The Paige area will be known as a contaminated water area and this stigma will significantly affect property values. No one wants to buy in a contaminated water area. If you have several choices, would you buy land in an area known for its contaminated / polluted water? Of course not. In addition to property values, it will ruin our land heritage for our future generations. (Some could even liken it to the Chernobyl nuclear reactor effect – creating land in Paige that is contaminated with no practical way to remove injected contaminants. At least for the Chernobyl reactor site, time will mitigate the danger. For injected contaminants in the aquifers, time will not cure nor remedy the danger.)

Other Concerns/ Issues with Paige ASR project from Paige area citizens

Comprehensive health study

The ASR project must include a comprehensive longitudinal health impact study to landowners and water well users now and in the future before any drilling or construction begins. Health risks have already been identified and a study of health impact needs to be conducted prior to any irreversible action such as drilling or injection occurs. The study should be based on other existing ASR projects to determine public health impacts.

In addition, Austin Water needs to conduct an extensive literature review of public health longitudinal studies on existing ASR projects showing incidences of diseases for populations using well water in the same area as an ASR project. This is essential since the aquifer is altered in existing ASR projects from the injection processes. Austin Water should post on its website the results of this report to ensure any existing health studies, in addition to its own health impact study, are taken into account in the decision-making process.

All Technical Advisory Group information should be available to the general public

The draft ASR Collaboration Agreement dated 8/4/2025 says only non-technical stakeholders and partners signing this agreement will be invited to attend the Technical Advisory Group meetings. These meetings should be open to the general public. Public decorum requirements and public comment limits are acceptable but the meetings should be open to all interested parties, particularly affected landowners in the Paige area.

Environmental Impact Statement (or similar level study)

Austin Water should prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (at the same level as the Environmental Impact Statement required under the federal National Environmental Policy Act) prior to taking any action that limits future options. The study should evaluate cumulative and connected impacts of the Paige ASR project.

Comingling of waters from different aquifers represents a potential health risk

The ASR project does not consider the real potential for waters from different aquifers comingling due to earthquakes and fault lines/fractures, along with the possibility of deep wells that are not fully encased allowing the transfer of water from one aquifer to another. This can result in unintended negative consequences of the Paige ASR project. Therefore, in discussing the safety of the ASR project, Austin Water cannot presume water will not be comingled between aquifers used by water wells in the Paige area along with aquifers used by local public water utilities in Bastrop County.

ASR projects have to deal with serious clogging problems that can lead to aquifer contamination. Higher costs often lead to abandonment of the ASR project after causing detrimental effects to the aquifers

Clogging of ASR injection and recovery wells is caused by buildup of particles in the injected water and air entrainment. Clogging can also be caused by the growth of microorganisms feeding on the nutrients in the recharged water that create mats of dead microorganisms and slime that clog up the filters. Some of the solutions for well clogging, such as adding a disinfectant into the injected surface water, can lead to aquifer contamination issues when that disinfectant reaches the aquifer and reacts with its confining geological materials. This leads to higher operational costs that has resulted in the abandonment of many ASR projects across the nation after causing permanent, detrimental effects to the aquifers.

ASR project will build infrastructure that could be used in the future to remove additional ground water from our aquifers

The draft ASR Collaboration Agreement dated 8/4/2025 says Austin Water will not seek a groundwater permit from the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District. While this is the current intention, it does not preclude any request for a permit in the future. Once the large wells, water pumps and transmission lines are installed, Austin Water will have the capacity to remove millions of gallons of additional water from the aquifers that currently serves local public water utilities and individual well owners. The agreement does not say Austin Water will never seek a groundwater permit that would use any ASR facilities or infrastructure to remove additional ground water from the aquifers.

Primary beneficiaries of the ASR project and those negatively impacted and assuming the risk are in different counties

An ASR project should be constructed in the area and injected into the aquifers serving the primary beneficiaries. In this Paige ASR project, the primary beneficiaries are located in Travis County while those negatively impacted and assuming all the health risks are in Bastrop County. The impact and risk are further concentrated in the community around Paige, Texas. It is inappropriate for a major ASR project to establish this separation between primary beneficiaries and those negatively impacted. Good policy decisions are best made when those benefiting are also assuming the risk and they can then weigh the costs and benefits to themselves from a risky project.

Austin Water must not seek to garner support by providing benefits to any public water utility

Austin Water must not seek to garner support for this ASR project by providing benefits to any public water utility within Bastrop County while the landowners in the Paige community experience all the risk. This is an inappropriate method of dividing Bastrop County citizens.

To our neighbors: Please join us as we all gather more information and oppose Austin Water's proposed Paige ASR project. Contact us any time. Together, we can protect Paige and Bastrop County.

Protect Paige Water
Mark and Shari Wyatt

Email: [REDACTED]

Mark's cell phone: [REDACTED]

Shari's cell phone: [REDACTED]

8/31/2025

BASTROP COUNTY SHOULD OPPOSE THE AUSTIN WATER AQUIFER STORAGE & RECOVERY (ASR) PROJECT IN PAIGE

by Mark and Shari Wyatt

ASR Injects Unregulated Contaminants

Treated surface water contaminates clean, pure aquifer water by injecting unregulated surface water chemicals or "Forever Contaminants" into the aquifer. **Well owners can never remove these contaminants.**

All Landowners Affected Economically

Once the aquifers under the Paige area are injected with surface water, Paige will have the stigma of being a contaminated water area. Property values will drop significantly. Some will liken it to the Chernobyl nuclear reactor effect. And if implemented, landowners in the Paige ASR target area will not have full control over their lands. Austin Water will control what happens on their property.

Longitudinal Health Impact Study Results for Existing ASR Projects
Health risks are a great concern. Just saying, "We will test and treat water" does not make the ASR project safe. Austin Water should post the results of longitudinal public health studies for existing ASR projects regarding incidences of disease for populations in existing ASR areas. They should also include a comprehensive health impact study to Paige area landowners and water well users now and before any construction begins.

ASR Technical Advisory Group Meetings Should be Open to the Public

The Draft ASR Collaboration Agreement dated 8/4/25 (p 2) states only non-technical stakeholders and partners signing the agreement will be invited to attend the Technical Group meetings. These meetings should be open to the general public, particularly affected landowners in the Paige area.

Comingling of Aquifer Waters

Austin Water should not presume water will not be comingled between aquifers. Just stating, "Aquifers will not comingle," does not prove anything. Deep wells that are not fully encased pose a health risk to wells and

ASR Project Will Provide Infrastructure to Remove Additional Ground Water
The draft ASR Agreement dated 08/04/25 states Austin Water will not seek a groundwater permit to obtain additional water. While this is the current intention, it does not preclude any request for a permit in the future.

Aquifer Contamination Due To Clogging
Clogging of ASR injection wells is caused by a build up of particles or by growth of microorganisms feeding on the nutrients in the recharged water creating mats of dead microorganisms that clog filters. Adding disinfectants can lead to detrimental effects when these chemicals react with aquifer geological materials.

Environmental Impact Statement (or similar level study)

Austin Water should prepare an Environmental Impact Statement prior to taking any action. The study should evaluate cumulative and connected impacts of the Paige ASR project.

Austin Water Should Not Garner Support by Providing Benefits to any Public Water Utility in Bastrop County

Austin Water should not garner support by providing benefits to public water utilities and organizations while Paige landowners experience all the risk. This is an inappropriate method of dividing Bastrop County citizens.

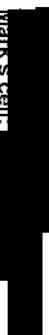
An ASR Project Should Be Constructed in an Area and Injected into the Aquifers Serving the Primary Beneficiaries

In the Paige ASR project, the primary beneficiaries are located in Travis County, while those negatively impacted are in Bastrop County. Austin Water should develop ASR projects in the county of the primary beneficiaries.

Mark & Shari Wyatt

Protect Paige Water

Mark's cell:



Shari's cell:



COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's Open House meetings about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

- See attached 2 documents
- Austin Water should notify the citizens in the ASR target area by mailings. Paige citizens do not know about this project. They will need to know to make informed decisions.

—Shari Wyatt



15

No “Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)” in Paige

SUMMARY: The Paige Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project by Austin Water will forever contaminate the pure aquifers with chemicals that are currently known to have serious health dangers yet are not presently regulated and removed when the water is treated to current Safe Drinking Water regulations (National Primary Drinking Water Regulations) prior to injection. This creates a serious health risk for water well owners and reduces land values for all landowners in the affected Paige area with no available remedy or remediation possible. The Paige area will be forever known as having contaminated well water and the real estate in the Paige region will have the stigma of contaminated/polluted water.

Background: The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets the legal limits on over 90 contaminants in drinking water. However, there are many other contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water, but that do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Every five years EPA reviews the list of contaminants, largely based on the Contaminant Candidate List, and makes a determination of contaminants that pose a public health risk, develops safe standards through rule-making, and adds them to the updated list of contaminants that must be removed from treated water to ensure public health.

This danger of unregulated chemicals found in treated surface water being injected into pure aquifers is not just speculation or hyperbole. A recent example of new dangerous surface water chemicals being identified and added to the regulated list is Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) that are linked to certain cancers and are considered by some to be carcinogenic. Studies have associated PFAS exposure with increased risks of cancers such as kidney cancer, testicular cancer, melanoma, and uterine cancer. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified one specific PFAS, PFOA, as "carcinogenic to humans". These dangerous carcinogens do not have to be removed from treated drinking water as of this date. EPA determined in 2024 they should establish legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for these dangerous chemicals. (Some PFAS variants were recently removed and the compliance date for the remaining ones extended.)

Danger of ASR: Water treated prior to injection could contain these dangerous PFAS chemicals or other chemicals that in the future may be added as regulated contaminants. Just because the water is treated before injection to today's standard does not make it safe or free from "forever contaminants or pollutants". New chemicals will be determined in the future to be just as dangerous to public health as PFAS recently were, but since not removed under today's drinking water treatment standards, they will be forever in the aquifer water under the Paige land. These chemicals from treated Austin Water sources will contaminate the current pure, clean water in the aquifers under the Paige land.

Water well users: Once these "forever pollutants" are injected through Aquifer Storage and Recovery, there is no practical way for a well owner to ever remove them from their drinking water. Once the future "PFAS-like" chemical is injected, a well owner cannot remove it to make their drinking water safe for consumption.

All landowners affected: The Paige area will be known as a contaminated water area and this stigma will significantly affect property values. No one wants to buy in a contaminated water area. If you have several choices, would you buy land in an area known for its contaminated / polluted water? Of course not. In addition to property values, it will ruin our land heritage for our future generations. (Some could even liken it to the Chernobyl nuclear reactor effect – creating land in Paige that is contaminated with no practical way to remove injected contaminants. At least for the Chernobyl reactor site, time will mitigate the danger. For injected contaminants in the aquifers, time will not cure nor remedy the danger.)

Other Concerns/ Issues with Paige ASR project from Paige area citizens

Comprehensive health study

The ASR project must include a comprehensive longitudinal health impact study to landowners and water well users now and in the future before any drilling or construction begins. Health risks have already been identified and a study of health impact needs to be conducted prior to any irreversible action such as drilling or injection occurs. The study should be based on other existing ASR projects to determine public health impacts.

In addition, Austin Water needs to conduct an extensive literature review of public health longitudinal studies on existing ASR projects showing incidences of diseases for populations using well water in the same area as an ASR project. This is essential since the aquifer is altered in existing ASR projects from the injection processes. Austin Water should post on its website the results of this report to ensure any existing health studies, in addition to its own health impact study, are taken into account in the decision-making process.

All Technical Advisory Group information should be available to the general public

The draft ASR Collaboration Agreement dated 8/4/2025 says only non-technical stakeholders and partners signing this agreement will be invited to attend the Technical Advisory Group meetings. These meetings should be open to the general public. Public decorum requirements and public comment limits are acceptable but the meetings should be open to all interested parties, particularly affected landowners in the Paige area.

Environmental Impact Statement (or similar level study)

Austin Water should prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (at the same level as the Environmental Impact Statement required under the federal National Environmental Policy Act) prior to taking any action that limits future options. The study should evaluate cumulative and connected impacts of the Paige ASR project.

Comingling of waters from different aquifers represents a potential health risk

The ASR project does not consider the real potential for waters from different aquifers comingling due to earthquakes and fault lines/fractures, along with the possibility of deep wells that are not fully encased allowing the transfer of water from one aquifer to another. This can result in unintended negative consequences of the Paige ASR project. Therefore, in discussing the safety of the ASR project, Austin Water cannot presume water will not be comingled between aquifers used by water wells in the Paige area along with aquifers used by local public water utilities in Bastrop County.

ASR projects have to deal with serious clogging problems that can lead to aquifer contamination. Higher costs often lead to abandonment of the ASR project after causing detrimental effects to the aquifers

Clogging of ASR injection and recovery wells is caused by buildup of particles in the injected water and air entrainment. Clogging can also be caused by the growth of microorganisms feeding on the nutrients in the recharged water that create mats of dead microorganisms and slime that clog up the filters. Some of the solutions for well clogging, such as adding a disinfectant into the injected surface water, can lead to aquifer contamination issues when that disinfectant reaches the aquifer and reacts with its confining geological materials. This leads to higher operational costs that has resulted in the abandonment of many ASR projects across the nation after causing permanent, detrimental effects to the aquifers.

ASR project will build infrastructure that could be used in the future to remove additional ground water from our aquifers

The draft ASR Collaboration Agreement dated 8/4/2025 says Austin Water will not seek a groundwater permit from the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District. While this is the current intention, it does not preclude any request for a permit in the future. Once the large wells, water pumps and transmission lines are installed, Austin Water will have the capacity to remove millions of gallons of additional water from the aquifers that currently serves local public water utilities and individual well owners. The agreement does not say Austin Water will never seek a groundwater permit that would use any ASR facilities or infrastructure to remove additional ground water from the aquifers.

Primary beneficiaries of the ASR project and those negatively impacted and assuming the risk are in different counties

An ASR project should be constructed in the area and injected into the aquifers serving the primary beneficiaries. In this Paige ASR project, the primary beneficiaries are located in Travis County while those negatively impacted and assuming all the health risks are in Bastrop County. The impact and risk are further concentrated in the community around Paige, Texas. It is inappropriate for a major ASR project to establish this separation between primary beneficiaries and those negatively impacted. Good policy decisions are best made when those benefiting are also assuming the risk and they can then weigh the costs and benefits to themselves from a risky project.

Austin Water must not seek to garner support by providing benefits to any public water utility

Austin Water must not seek to garner support for this ASR project by providing benefits to any public water utility within Bastrop County while the landowners in the Paige community experience all the risk. This is an inappropriate method of dividing Bastrop County citizens.

To our neighbors: Please join us as we all gather more information and oppose Austin Water's proposed Paige ASR project. Contact us any time. Together, we can protect Paige and Bastrop County.

Protect Paige Water
Mark and Shari Wyatt

Email [REDACTED]

Mark's cell phone: [REDACTED]
Shari's cell phone: [REDACTED]

8/31/2025

BASTROP COUNTY SHOULD OPPOSE THE AUSTIN WATER AQUIFER STORAGE & RECOVERY (ASR) PROJECT IN PAIGE

by Mark and Shari Wyatt

ASR Injects Unregulated Contaminants

Treated surface water contaminates clean, pure aquifer water by injecting unregulated surface water chemicals or "Forever Contaminants" into the aquifer. **Well owners can never remove these contaminants.**

All Landowners Affected Economically

Once the aquifers under the Paige area are injected with surface water, Paige will have the stigma of being a contaminated water area. Property values will drop significantly. Some will liken it to the Chernobyl nuclear reactor effect. And if implemented, landowners in the Paige ASR target area will not have full control over their lands. Austin Water will control what happens on their property.

Comingling of Aquifer Waters

Austin Water should not presume water will not be commingled between aquifers. Just stating, "Aquifers will not commingle," does not prove anything. Deep wells that are not fully encased pose a health risk to wells and public water utilities.

ASR Project Will Provide Infrastructure to Remove Additional Ground Water

The draft ASR Agreement dated 08/04/25 states Austin Water will not seek a groundwater permit to obtain additional water. While this is the current intention, it does not preclude any request for a permit in the future.

Longitudinal Health Impact Study Results for Existing ASR Projects

Health risks are a great concern. Just saying, "We will test and treat water" does not make the ASR project safe. Austin Water should post the results of longitudinal public health studies for existing ASR projects regarding incidences of disease for populations in existing ASR areas. They should also include a comprehensive health impact study to Paige area landowners and water well users now and before any construction begins.

ASR Technical Advisory Group Meetings Should be Open to the Public

The Draft ASR Collaboration Agreement dated 8/4/25 (p.2) states only non-technical stakeholders and partners signing the agreement will be invited to attend the Technical Group meetings. These meetings should be open to the general public, particularly affected landowners in the Paige area.

Aquifer Contamination Due To Clogging

Clogging of ASR injection wells is caused by a build up of particles or by growth of microorganisms feeding on the nutrients in the recharged water creating mats of dead microorganisms that clog filters. Adding disinfectants can lead to detrimental effects when these chemicals react with aquifer geological materials.

Environmental Impact Statement (or similar level study)

Austin Water should prepare an Environmental Impact Statement prior to taking any action. The study should evaluate cumulative and connected impacts of the Paige ASR project.

Austin Water Should Not Garner Support by Providing Benefits to any Public Water Utility in Bastrop County

Austin Water should not garner support by providing benefits to public water utilities and organizations while Paige landowners experience all the risk. This is an inappropriate method of dividing Bastrop County citizens.

An ASR Project Should Be Constructed in an Area and Injected into the Aquifers Serving the Primary Beneficiaries

In the Paige ASR project, the primary beneficiaries are located in Travis County, while those negatively impacted are in Bastrop County. Austin Water should develop ASR projects in the county of the primary beneficiaries.

Protect Paige Water

Mark & Shari Wyatt

Mark's cell:
Shari's cell:

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: Peggy Reeser (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at [REDACTED]
 Yes, please call me at [REDACTED]

Will there be a formal
g' + a meeting whereby
we may sit and listen to
a proper presentation.

Thank you.
Peggy



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COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: _____ (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at _____
 Yes, please call me at _____

NO HAPPY WITH THE PROJECT.



17

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: Eric (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at _____

Yes, please call me at _____

More info on payments /
easement restrictions !



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Proposal for membership to the ASR Technical Advisory Group

Since 2006, I have owned a house on ten acres on South Old Potato Road in Paige, Texas, within the published boundary of the Austin Water Aquifer Storage and Recovery Target Area, making me a potential stakeholder in this project. Along with my background described below, I believe this makes me a suitable candidate for membership in the above-captioned group. Please find below a description of my background and career. Professional and personal references available upon request.

Summary: I have 40 years of experience as a cartographer, geoscientist, government advisor, and educator, working in research, petroleum exploration and production, and as an educator in the field of disaster response. My participation in this space included work in environmentally sensitive areas including the North Slope of Alaska and the Gulf Coast and dozens of other locales throughout the US. In addition to this work, I served as an advisor to the EPA on its Science Advisory Board from 2017-2020. I have training and practical experience in geology, geophysics, hydrology, reservoir engineering, satellite photometry, oceanography, meteorology, oil spill response, and disaster response.

I graduated from the University of Kansas with a BS in Geology in 1979 before attending the University of Texas to pursue a Masters in Structural Geology. While at UT, I worked for two years as a research assistant at the Bureau of Economic Geology, primarily in logging well cores and well log analysis. I left UT in 1981 to join Exxon as an Oil & Gas Information Specialist. In 1984, I accepted a position with Elf Exploration as a manager in the petroleum exploration and reservoir engineering departments. I stayed with Elf in Houston through its acquisition by Total, ending my career with TotalEnergies in 2017 as Geoscience Information Manager. In the final five years, my responsibilities included reservoir characterization, fracking efficiency, and reserves calculation in two major unconventional fields.

During my time at Elf/TotalEnergies, I was frequently involved in industry initiatives, serving as committee chair for a variety of organizations and user's groups. In addition, I was seconded on several occasions to the Petrotechnical Open Software Consortium (later called Energistics) as a project manager to develop and test standards for the collection and storage of oil and gas industry data.

In the petroleum infrastructure domain, particularly related to environmental issues, I developed multiple innovative techniques using satellite technologies and

other remote sensing sensors. On the North Slope of Alaska, I developed a method for characterizing growth of “thermal karsting”, tracking progressive damage to the permafrost that creates permanent meltwater lakes. In the offshore Gulf of Mexico, I developed a way to marry robotic pipeline inspection videos with GIS data to identify the location and cause of pipeline breaks in ultra-deep water. And I also used GIS to generate multiple exhibits detailing contamination plumes from leaking pipelines in South Texas. Throughout my career, I was recognized by TotalEnergies with multiple Innovation Awards including technologies that led to patents.

As mentioned above, I drew on my training in GIS, satellite photometry, oceanography, and meteorology to play a key role in oil spill planning and response. This role was expanded, after Hurricane Katrina, to include the safety of our employees, that eventually led to the formalization of my role as the Hurricane Response Coordinator for the organization, tasked with monitoring weather conditions, developing training programs, running actual weather-related disaster response, and educating new arrivals to the US on preparing for Hurricane Season. I continued in this role after my retirement, teaching and overseeing disaster response through 2023.

In the Fall of 2017, as I was preparing to retire, I was selected by the Trump Administration for appointment to the EPA’s Science Advisory Board (SAB). The role of the SAB is to review the quality and relevance of the scientific and technical information being used by the EPA. During my time with the EPA, besides taking an active part in the work of the Board, I wrote the SAB’s recommendation on the Fuels Regulation Modernization rule, and drawing on my expertise in hydrology, drafted the initial consensus document for the SAB’s recommendation on the Waters of the US (WOTUS) 2019 update to the Clean Water Act.

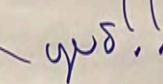
Robert W. Merritt

A large rectangular area of the page is completely blacked out, indicating the redaction of sensitive contact information.

Who says that ASR is
a proven method? Where
is the source documentation?
Who else has used this method
and for how long? (20)

DEFINE DRINKING WATER? (21)

Will land owners be informed of amounts stored + removed?
and changes to water quality? (22)

Get Aqua to communicate their view
of this project to their clients!  you!!

②③ Who is going to monitor water taken
out by Austin?

②④ route of pipeline & area of destination (umps)? ②⑤

How do you establish a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile
buffer zone around an underground
aquifer? ②⑥

What restrictions will landowners have on
their property for future uses (we
don't want to be limited to just ranching +
farming)
+ How will this affect future property value?

How will the time pressure of ^{fora injection + pulling water out}
existing aquifer's water use quality
compare to nature's filtration ②⑦

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: John Doe (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at _____

Yes, please call me at _____

I want more info
abt ASK.



COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: Nanci Martinez (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at _____

Yes, please call me at _____

- More information on future determination of fair and payment for land purchases to be used
- More information on options beyond the sell of total property.
- More information on danger to environment / tanks / wells from drilling, treatment chemicals and pumps



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COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: Suzanne RAGANS (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at _____

Yes, please call me at _____

9/13
Follow up
7 end

- Why not use the Trinity or Edwards Aquifers?
- What issues have Kerrville had with contamination and clogging using river water in Trinity aquifer
- Where in the Colorado River will water come from?
- How + who will monitor the Aquifer to assure no contamination or overuse
- How will injection of water in lower layers change? Queen City, Carizzo, Calvert Bluff, Simsboro, Hooper
- How will ASR Change land ownership + use
 - In driving area (size, surface use)
 - In buffer area (size, surface use)
- What agency will approve surface permits



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COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: Catherine Skye (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at [REDACTED]
 Yes, please call me at [REDACTED]

-This project does NOT belong in Bastrop County. I'm a long time land owner and am incredibly overwhelmed by tonight - I thought there would be a presentation and Q&A. ☹



35

COMMENTS

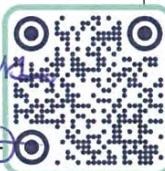
Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: Jacklyn Larson (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at _____
 Yes, please call me at _____

- 1) You are causing & creating devision in the communities-
A - No support should be enhanced or promoted or elicited by open or closed door negotiations or offers of any kind.
- 2) Go to Travis County whom are the main beneficiaries -
- 3) No amount of Assurance can convince anyone that the water from Austin would not be contaminated. You cannot guarantee that. And, it may be 5, 10 or so years before the results show up in people, animals & crops. By then you will be long gone!
- 4) You cannot guarantee water will not contaminate. Your promise cannot be fulfilled. Every farmer & person who has water on or near their property knows this. Who are you kidding?
- 5) Everyone will be effected by contaminated water - us, our children, our grandchildren, our babies & elderly. You will be responsible for deaths & illness.
- 6) The contaminants cannot be removed from well owners. And everyone knows the small communities already struggle to clean water for human consumption.



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COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: Jami Smith - Handay (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?



Yes, please email me at _____



Yes, please call me at _____

What location is the project?

How are we testing the water?
for how long.



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COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: Jay Allison (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at _____
 Yes, please call me at _____

Well done. Answered all the questions honestly and transparently.

Suggest revising some of the language about eminent domain. If you are committed to not exercising eminent domain, say so adamantly.

Thank you for all of the information!



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COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: Mark Whiting (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at _____
 Yes, please call me at _____

Water chemistry maintenance & matching
with Aquifer
Water use monitoring from aquifer
Revenue and compensation for well owners
in the affected area
Address Waste & leaks in COA before
expanding Austin Water to Bastrop



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COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: Jennifer Garcia (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at _____
 Yes, please call me at _____

As a resident of Bastrop County, I oppose this Aquifer Storage Recovery Project. I speak for myself, my spouse and our young daughter when I say "No Thank You" to building this ASRP. Please consider a location closer to Austin. Bastrop would like to maintain water in our own ways (including rainwater collection/harvesting.) My family and our neighbors Do NOT approve of or want an ASRP in Bastrop County. Our concerns are both ecological and economic. It is very important to use sustainable measures to keep Bastrop water clean and safe. As a former resident of South Austin, I have experience with the low quality of Austin water and their low standards for water safety and taste. I encourage the leaders of Bastrop County to reject this proposal. I also encourage Austin Water to stop this project and find an alternate location outside of Bastrop County.

Thanks. - Jennifer Garcia



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COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: Ivy Custo (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at _____
 Yes, please call me at _____

As a land & home owner in Bastrop County, I am completely against this proposed idea/plan. I have lived off of heavily treated public water for over 20 years and it has completely wrecked my body and system. I built a home for my family where we could have access to natural water that has not been treated, and its been hugely beneficial for my health & my family's health. I DO NOT want chemicals in my water that I am getting from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. I understand how an aquifer works and there is not a way to keep this proposed treated water separated from the water others pull out. Chemicals deep in the aquifers will produce long-lasting and unknown outcomes to our eco system, including wildlife, plant life, water, and organisms that keep a delicate balance in check. Keep Austin's problems in Austin and Travis County. They aren't welcome here.



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COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: _____ (optional)

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at _____
 Yes, please call me at _____

→ THERE IS AN ASYMMETRICAL ADVANTAGE TO DISADVANTAGE RATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF RAILE. THERE IS NO purported BENEFIT WHILE THERE ARE TRENEDOUS RISKS TO OUR COMMUNITY, OUR WATER, AND OUR WAY OF LIFE. THIS PROJECT ENSURES RICH AUSTENITES ARE ABLE TO WATER THEIR LAWNS.

→ THERE IS AN ASSUMPTION THAT 1 GALLON OF WATER PUT INTO THE AQUIFER EQUATES TO ONE GALLON AVAILABLE. HOW IS THIS ASSUMPTION MADE? HOW IS THERE NO LOSS OF WATER? DISPLACING MY WATER WITH RUNOFF FROM AUSTIN DOES NOT GRANT YOU ACCESS TO PULL THAT BACK OUT. MEASURING GALLONS IN VS GALLONS OUT DOES NOT TELL THE WHOLE STORY.

→ THERE IS NO MITIGATION PLAN TO GUARANTEE SAFE DRINKING WATER TO LOCALS IN A CONTAMINATION EVENT.



42

- Will pulling from your 'storage' effect the upper 43 aquifer's natural storage (you know... gravity, pressure?)
- How will this affect the Rice Farmers down 44 south - who have water rights to Colorado River?
- Why don't you use part of the 49K acres in Travis County to store the water - why won't the city of Austin allow it? 45
- What do they see wrong with idea.

Play in your own yard - we already pay your taxes + don't benefit from ~~your~~ ^{your influences} either. 46

What is Austin's plan for fixing the leaks in their 47 water lines - old infrastructure?

- Check temp of groundwater - may need cooling towers
- Remove chlorine & fluoride before injecting 48

What Sustainability and eco-friendly options does Austin/TravisCo. and Bastrop County have?

Would you consider wide-spread Rainwater collection/harvesting?
What can the average citizen/resident do to stay informed about
Local/State/National/global H₂O (water) Issues? Thank you! 49

- How are these wells watched? Not on groundwater list.
- Effect of personal property values?
- option to expand on our own property - add family dwellings?
- difference between injected water vs natural filtration?
- Bring in scientific - effected knowledge to discuss to group - vs. Communication/diplomatic jargon.
- let public hear others questions & concerns instead of isolated discussion. 50
 - Tague ↑ - me too!
- DOES NOT benefit BC in any way.
- Concerned citizens do NOT want Cos to ~~sign~~ sign an MoU.
- Been said - state standards will apply to injected water but how does that compare to our (B.C) existing water quality?
- If Bastrop Co. Resources require going deeper than currently... will that prevent us from doing so?
- what is the water line route? how deep from source to destination? 51
- Water is a Mineral Right. Landowners should be paid for it like oil!! 52

9/19/25

- Water quality
- Risk / damage - what would we do if there are impacts?
- Cost - no new water
- engineers / consultants accountable?
- wells run dry?
- ADR
- population growth
- * mitigation plan?

example - Gonzales Co. (wells)

horrible plan

State of Texas Water Plan - horrible

Rainwater

Comments From:

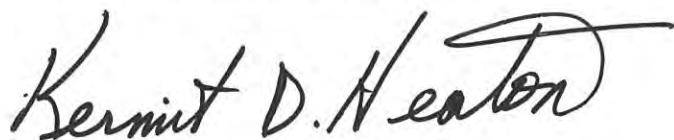
Ted Boniack, Gonzalez County Landowner

54

Partnership For Protection
COMMENTS

NAME: Kermit D. Heaton
(From 9/13/25, Paige Open House Meeting)
Approval to Please email me at derfrosch1@me.com

1. Please confirm your receipt of my comments to the email above.
2. The concept of your ASR program is good, but the 'devil is the details' definitely applies in this type of situation. Any person or group of persons will never be able to take into consideration the wonders of the creation that is the ground water system that makes Texas possible. This means that ALL inputs need to be considered, that transparency in the planning and implementation (initial, on-going, and forever) stages, and that proper and safe responses for failure to meet these criterion are required in initial, on-going, and forever situations.
3. What are the written criteria that ALL stake holders can agree to; BEFORE implementation that will result in STOPPING the project until those criteria can be attained?
4. How can Bastrop (County government or individuals) stop the project if harmed?
5. There needs to be a criterion in 3. above that identifies when Austin Water CANNOT use eminent domain, instead of 'refrain' from using eminent domain. Refrain just means that Austin Water will make you an offer and you must take it, PERIOD. That refrain is completely unacceptable.
6. Please explain how TRANSPARANCY of ALL information will be provided to ALL groups and individuals involved.
7. How will the City of Austin be kept from changing the project to different unilateral practices and policies after implantation? (see 4. above)
8. What is the history of periods when water would have been pumped into the aquifer and when water would have been pumped out of the aquifer? Just averages is NOT sufficient! While averages have uses, it is also possible to use averages that say if you are sitting with one foot in boiling oil and the other in liquid nitrogen, that on the average you are just right, when you are not! This should be a basis for one or more of the written criteria in 3. above.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kermit D. Heaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Kermit" and "Heaton" being the most prominent parts.

COMMENTS

Thank you for attending Austin Water's meeting about the proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. We want to hear from you. Please use the QR code to complete our questionnaire or provide feedback below.

Name: KERMIT HEATON (optional)

9/13/25 PAIGE OPEN HOUSE

Would you like Austin Water to contact you with more information about your comments?

Yes, please email me at DERFAUSCH1@ME.COM

Yes, please call me at _____

1. PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THESE COMMENTS
2. WHAT IS THE CRITERIA; THAT IF EXCEEDED, WOULD STOP THE PROJECT
3. HOW CAN BASTROP (COUNTY GOVT OR COUNTY CITIZENS) STOP THE PROJECT IF HARMED
4. EXPLAIN WHAT THE BUFFER ZONE (DETAILS) IS AND HOW IT WILL BE MONITORED
5. EXPLAIN HOW "REFRAIN" FROM EMINENT DOMAIN IS DIFFERENT FROM YOU SET A PRICE + FORCE LAND OWNER / RESIDENT FROM TAXING IT.
6. EXPLAIN HOW TRANSPARENCY OF ALL INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED TO ALL ~~THE~~ GROUPS / INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED
7. HOW WILL THE CITY OF AUSTIN REACT FROM CHANGING THE PROJECT TO DIFFERENT PRACTICES, AFTER IMPLEMENTATION

