



## Protect the Future of Local Foods Protect our Water

The Texas Legislature is considering multiple bills that would make it easier to transfer water from one area to another. In practical terms, this means taking water from rural areas to supply urban centers.

While some water transfers may be needed, all too often these rural-to-urban transfers are being used to avoid real conservation measures. In fact, the current state Water Plan assumes that municipal demand will increase almost directly proportionally to the projected increase in our population over the next 50 years.

In other words, the plan assumes that people will continue to use (and waste) water at the same rates as today, without any significant additional conservation efforts. Yet average residential water usage ranges from 60 gallons to over 300 gallons per person per day in different parts of Texas. Many Texans could easily cut their water usage in half – or even lower – without any real hardship.

Water transfers just postpone the day of reckoning. At some point, Texans will need to take serious steps to conserve water. Shouldn't we do it *before* our aquifers have been drained and our rural communities destroyed?



San Antonio's recent actions provide a clear vision of what this means. San Antonio is building a 140-mile pipeline to transfer large amounts of groundwater from some of the best farmland in our state, draining the aquifer under Bureson and Milam Counties. At the same time, the city is negotiating a deal to have some of the water bottled for sale!

**We must conserve first, transfer later!**

Please take action today – more information is on the back of this flyer

Go to [www.FarmAndRanchFreedom.org](http://www.FarmAndRanchFreedom.org) or call 254-697-2661  
for more information & free email alerts

## Take Action

Call or email your State Representative and Senator. You can find out who represents you by going to [www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us](http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us) or calling the Texas Capitol Switchboard at 512-463-4630.

**Urge them to oppose any bill or amendment that makes it easier to transport water out of an area, until and unless all efforts have been made to maximize conservation and to consider the impacts on the area that is losing the water.**

Specifically, urge them to oppose:

- HB 3597, which allows groundwater to be exported out of a region without considering the availability of water in the exporting or the receiving areas, or the projected effect of the proposed transfer on “aquifer conditions, depletion, subsidence, or effects on existing permit holders or other groundwater users within the district.”
- HB 3324, which allows surface water to be transferred out of a region without any consideration of the “detriments to the basin of origin”
- HB 3803 which prevents any consideration of environmental or natural resource impacts on a region, when another region plans to build a reservoir or use a water source from there
- SB 1907/ HB 3298, which would direct the Texas Water Development Board to conduct a study on how to develop a statewide water market and conveyance network - essentially, a massive grid to allow water to be shipped all around the state easily.

### TALKING POINTS:

- Conservation must be the first priority for everyone. No transfers should be allowed until the receiving area has **first** implemented all possible conservation measures.
- Texas cannot use transfers to disguise unsustainable practices to water usage. That doesn't solve the problem, it simply postpones the day of reckoning, and makes it likely that the reckoning will be even more painful. Every aspect of water planning must include planning for sustainability in perpetuity.
- There is no justification for destroying rural communities' futures. It will not be possible to expand or even maintain these communities if there is no water available. While some transfers to urban areas may be necessary and appropriate, they must include consideration of the **long-term** impacts on the areas from which they are taking water, not simply whether there is an excess supply at this specific time.