

Do DFCs Have Any Practical Importance?

Based on expected population growth and historical groundwater consumption trends, it's clear that your DFC will stay viable far beyond the next 50 years! It permits us to consume more than 13 million ac-ft from our aquifers through year 2080. From the graph showing cumulative groundwater usage, it's evident that only half that amount would be consumed even at an allowable groundwater usage of **199,000 ac-ft/yr!**

Your DFC clearly meets the prescribed groundwater production limits set by the TWDB's "Recoverable Storage" criteria, yet **localized groundwater shortages are cropping up throughout our county.** That's because your groundwater policy allows intentional depletion (mining) of our confined aquifers. **The inevitable drop in aquifer water levels is predictably causing our wells to deplete.** Reworked or replaced wells in our confined aquifers customarily drop in productivity the deeper they go, so longer pumping times or more wells are needed to obtain previous groundwater quantities.

The cones of depression in these wells will also significantly expand in size the deeper they go. And even after pumping stops, more time is needed for the cone to rebound back to normal in these deeper wells. Cones in deeper wells are thus more likely to intersect with other wells' cones...this significantly diminishes all affected wells' previous output. Another issue with water table decline is the possible worsening of groundwater quality whereby increased treatment costs may destroy a well's commercial feasibility.

Apart from the foregoing **water supply** issues, our Gulf Coast aquifers are susceptible to irreversible compaction when water levels fall. This eventually materializes as surface land subsidence that often creates very costly damage to our local infrastructure. Declining water levels promote more such damage.

In summary, your current DFC is so generous that it provides no incentive for reducing groundwater depletion and the forementioned issues. Yet, in reality we are already facing serious shortages in our near-term groundwater supplies. It begs the question: What are DFCs buying us? The time and energy directed at your in-house purple pipe campaign and rainwater collection effort seems far more pertinent and productive! Thanks for your attention.