

Role #1—Citizens Alliance for the Aquifer

Concern #1—The Citizens Alliance for the Aquifer (CAA) has several concerns regarding managing the Ogallala Aquifer. CAA is a consortium of more than 1,500 individuals and businesses from several states in the High Plains region. Our consortium's mission is to hear—and to represent to public officials—the concerns of citizens throughout the region.

The following is a summary of the multiple issues that we believe must be taken into account as a multistate resolution is sought:

- Multistate cooperation with regard to the remaining resources of the Ogallala Aquifer
- Scientific research on the ecological repercussions of artificial groundwater recharge using reclaimed wastewater
- Economic incentives for sustainable practices
- Locally enforceable regulation (because the region is too large for regulation by a few federal agents)
- Ecological impact statements on the effects of aquifer mining on wildlife
- Increased access to the *playa* lakes for recreational purposes (e.g., game bird hunting)
- Subsidies to offset economic losses of farmers who must dig deeper for water
- Monitoring of feedlots to reduce nitrogen waste seepage and pesticide seepage
- For new construction, impact fees that are based on projected water usage of new households
- Full-scale assessment (e.g., feasibility, available markets) of drought-tolerant crops
- Federal assistance to offset the rising cost of drilling for water
- Equity in subsidies for all farmers or incentives for water-use reductions
- A framework of regular communications with citizens

