**S1:** List of Q-statements and their associated factor values.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Factor Score | | |
| # | Statement | Factor 1 | Factor 2 | Factor 3 |
| 1 | Groundwater conservation districts can make very arbitrary decisions about when to issue permits. It’s not so much based on science as it is based on local politics. | 3\*\* | 1\* | -1\* |
| 2 | The economies of Burleson and Milam Counties are dependent on Eagle Ford shale fracking. Without the ability for fracking companies to come in and utilize groundwater then our number one catalyst for jobs in the community is killed. Vista Ridge and the 130 Pipeline project threaten this ability. | 0 | -1 | -2 |
| 3 | Mayor Julian Castro completely replaced the SAWS Board before the Vista Ridge deal came up to provide a soft target for rubber stamping the deal. | -4\*\* | -2 | -1 |
| 4 | I object to groundwater being called a property right because if it can be drained out from under my land it’s not a property right. That’s called theft in any other area of property. | 0 | 4\*\* | -2 |
| 5 | SAWS used that grossly overestimated per capita demand figure of 135 (gallons per capita per day) to justify acquiring a new, extremely expensive source of water to meet future demand – the Vista Ridge Pipeline. | -3 | -2 | 2\* |
| 6 | It will take the people from San Antonio working with people from Burleson and Milam Counties to come up with a better long-term solution and unfortunately that is not the way water policy is being made. | 0 | 0 | 2\* |
| 7 | I don’t think Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District is don’t the proper job to protect the aquifer and the people that live in Burleson and Milam Counties. | -1 | 5\*\* | 0 |
| 8 | SAWS has experienced some controversy but most has been from local Sierra Club types. There are very few in the Burleson and Milam County area who oppose the project. | 1\*\* | -4\* | -3\* |
| 9 | Vista Ridge assures that San Antonio will have guaranteed water security for decades at stable prices. This is a historic opportunity. | 4\*\* | -3 | -2 |
| 10 | SAWS has done its due diligence in ensuring that its ratepayers are protected from major risks while providing San Antonio with the Vista Ridge Pipeline, a new, safe and reliable water source. | 4\*\* | -3\*\* | -4\*\* |
| 11 | Family incomes in San Antonio have stagnated for more than 10 years; rate increases for Vista Ridge will be a major burden for lower- and middle- income families. That will hurt our economy. | -1 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | The Texas system of groundwater rights is a legal structure that doesn’t match the reality of the system. You can easily dry somebody else out and it leads to ridiculous water races. | 0 | 2 | 4\*\* |
| 13 | The Vista Ridge Pipeline Project is a short-term boon for land developers who want to fill the fragile Hill Country with subdivisions. | -3\*\* | 1 | 2 |
| 14 | A city always wants to have 50 years of water in front of it. Most big communities have to go out, do a big water project, and get more water than they immediately need so they can grow into the water they get. If you don’t do that, then your city is always put under drought restrictions and that creates a bad reputation for business development. | 2\*\* | 0 | -1 |
| 15 | The key information that was needed to be a well-informed stakeholder was never easily available and became less so. | -2\*\* | 2 | 3 |
| 16 | In my opinion, SAWS has been transparent. When you negotiate a contract there needs to be confidentiality. | 2\*\* | -2\*\* | -4\*\* |
| 17 | The Vista Ridge project is a true example of Texan helping Texan through a win-win deal that benefits San Antonio and the local landowners who are leasing their private water rights. | 2\*\* | -5 | -3 |
| 18 | The whole Vista Ridge deal was designed to avoid ever giving the people a voice. SAWS wanted to use this public-private partnership as a veil to prevent from having to get public onboard for the project and that was deliberate. | -5\*\* | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | I do not like the fact that we’re trying to encourage growth in San Antonio. I don’t think that bigger cities serve anyone besides the developers and the builders and the people who make money from growth. | -3\*\* | 0 | 1 |
| 20 | At SAWS, we’ve mitigated the risk for San Antonio but have also mitigated the risk for the local folks of Burleson and Milam County. We put all the risk on the private sector. | 3\*\* | -3\* | -5\* |
| 21 | Nobody has ever put together a public-private partnership that behaved as a good steward. | -2 | 1\* | -1 |
| 22 | Vista Ridge could fall apart numerous different ways, including buying water San Antonio can’t use and when we do need it 30 years from now, it is no longer available. | -1 | -1 | 1\*\* |
| 23 | The challenge of water supply in Texas is we’ve done most of our water planning while we have been in severe droughts, rather than planning ahead so that we’re more drought resistant and drought tolerant. | 1 | -1 | 1 |

(Continued)

**S1**: Continued

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|  |  | Factor Score | | |
| # | Statement | Factor 1 | Factor 2 | Factor 3 |
| 24 | When this water goes down the Vista Ridge pipeline it is not going to help anybody here in Burleson and Milam County. | 0 | 4\*\* | 0 |
| 25 | A groundwater conservation district’s ability to set their desired future conditions, permit term lengths, and pumping cutbacks poses a risk to San Antonio to receive a reliable supply of water. | 3\*\* | 1 | 0 |
| 26 | That to me is the underlying problem with Vista Ridge. It’s not moving the water from one place to another, it’s not the cost of the water, it’s not whether or not a private company built the pipeline, it’s the fact that people, even if they don’t know it, they feel uneasy to the fact that we’re privatizing water and turning it into a commodity and a market. | 0 | 0 | 2\*\* |
| 27 | The nature of the Vista Ridge deal, where the private entities only get paid if they sell water, creates an enormous incentive for them to pump all the water from day one. | 1 | 2 | 4\* |
| 28 | It is really dangerous when we start putting public utilities in the hands of private actors because those entities don’t have the public good at heart. They have a legal right to sacrifice public good for private interest. | -2\*\* | 3 | 5 |
| 29 | Vista Ridge gives San Antonio the ability to use those water supplies to meet its demand and balance conservation, drought management, and economic development. | 5\*\* | -2 | -2 |
| 30 | I believe the scientists for the state and for SAWS. Their best estimates are that the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer can afford to carry the burden of Vista Ridge. But they could be wrong. Science improves all the time and you’ve got to be willing to say if new data shows new conclusions you don’t stick to your points of view. | 2\*\* | -1 | 0 |
| 31 | San Antonio has been a leader in conservation, but we got sidetracked by the goal of acquiring abundant water. | -2\* | -1\* | 1\*\* |
| 32 | There’s this fear base that the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer is going to dry up like a lake does and it just doesn’t happen that way. The aquifer is very deep. Vista Ridge is not going to impact the local landowners. | 1\*\* | -4 | -3 |
| 33 | Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District has never reviewed the legitimacy of any of the groundwater leases to see if they are legally recorded and so forth, and that is the reason why SAWS has done this private-partnership deal, where they put that burden of responsibility on BlueWater and that’s the way SAWS wash their hands on this. | -1 | 2\*\* | -1 |
| 34 | San Antonio City Council failed its fiduciary responsibility to obtain an independent analysis of the Vista Ridge project. It did not ask any questions, and it refused to listen to many questions asked by concerned stakeholders. | -4\*\* | 1\* | 3\* |
| 35 | There are hydrologists telling SAWS Vista Ridge pumping is going to be fine. There are other hydrologists saying it’s going to be a disaster and there are others saying ‘I don’t know.’ So, you get to pick the hydrologist that says what you want to hear. | 1 | 3\* | 1 |
| 36 | When we mine coal or pump oil we recognize that at some point that means we are going to run out, but there are substitutions for energy. There are no substitutions for water. And Vista Ridge is nothing more than a mining operation. | -1\*\* | 3 | 3 |

(-5) equal most disagree and (+5) equal most agree.

(\*) indicates significance at p < 0.05; (\*\*) indicates significance at p < 0.01.