



Winter Newsletter



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IN THIS

ISSUE:

Securing the Border: Priority Number One

Protecting Our Ground-water Rights

Marketing Report

From the Executive Director

Take Action on the Estate Tax

Membership Report

Securing the Border: Priority #1

The South Texans' Property Rights Association (STPRA) members are on the front lines of the drug war now raging in the region. Almost daily, our members report harrowing stories of violence and threats; and, as unbelievable as it may seem in the United States of America, our members must consider retaliatory injury or death if they report those threats to authorities. The restoration of confidence in law enforcement to protect our citizens is imperative. The sovereignty of our nation is at stake.

The scourge of drug violence and human smuggling has spread from the U.S. - Mexican border to almost every region of our country. It is a challenge that will be resolved only through a multi - faceted approach, bringing every reasonably available resource of the United States government to bear.

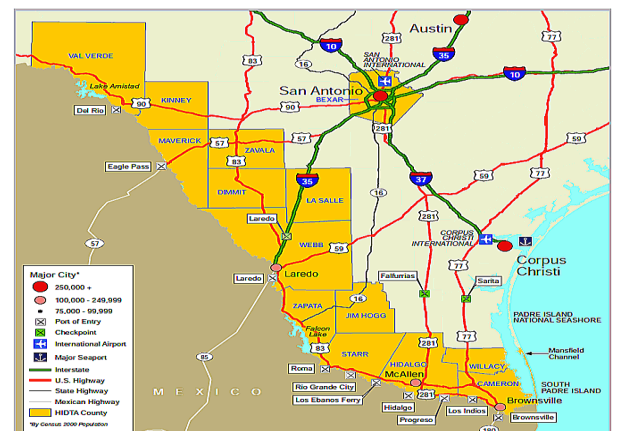
STPRA is encouraging policy-makers to act now to stem the tide of overwhelming fear and uncertainty now engulfing the borderlands. The devastation must be held in check immediately, allowing time to implement even more sweeping measures, including limited immigration reform that will isolate and target criminals.

STPRA supports the following immediate actions:

- Providing at least an additional \$1 billion dollars in federal funding to accomplish the objectives listed below in Texas and to accomplish simi-

lar objectives in the other southwestern border states

- Increasing significantly the number of Border Patrol agents
- Stepping up southbound inspections for guns and money being taken back to Mexico
- Implementing Operation Streamline in all sectors of the Border Patrol
- Adding at least four federal district judges in Texas to handle immigration cases
- Federal financing to deploy the National Guard in supporting roles with the Border Patrol
- Increasing federal funding for state and local law enforcement agencies within 100 miles of the border to pay for additional equipment and personnel
- Providing additional funding to counties impacted by trespassing and other crimes resulting from Border Patrol checkpoints



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Tobi Kibbe
Marketing Director
Robert Howard
Consultant



Photo by Justin Dreibelbis

Photo by DK Langford

Photo by Texas Farm Bureau

Protecting Our Groundwater Rights

STPRA has joined forces with 12 other landowner organizations to solidify 100 years of case law and the Texas Constitution in establishing a property owner's vested interest in the water beneath his or her land. This right is being continually challenged in court and must be more explicitly codified in state statute.

We strongly support the authority of local groundwater conservation districts to regulate groundwater so that private landowners can work with their neighbors, rather than a distant state agency, to conserve this critical resource. However, we believe that a district's authority to manage groundwater must also include a requirement to recognize and respect landowners' property rights.

We are asking groundwater conservation districts to endorse our efforts by passing resolutions that state that 1) all property owners have a vested right to groundwater, 2) this right entitles all property owners to produce a reasonable amount of groundwater, and 3) this right is subject to fair and reasonable regulation by a groundwater district to protect the availability of groundwater for the future.

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, the Farm Bureau, and the Texas Wildlife Association are taking the lead in drafting legislation for the next session of the Legislature. We are assisting their efforts to educate the public and secure the support of groundwater conservation districts for the proposed legislation. We will be reporting progress on this effort as it unfolds, but in the meantime more information can be found at: <http://www.groundwaterownership.com/>.

One of the best things we can do as STPRA members is ask our local groundwater districts to adopt resolutions supporting vested property rights to groundwater. Sample language for a resolution can be found at the above-referenced website. STPRA staff will gladly assist any interested member in pursuing passage of such a resolution by a groundwater conservation district.

Nueces Helicopters

Contact Avery Kibbe
361-537-7703

Aerial Photography
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www.nueceshelicopters.com

Dear STPRA Members,

I am eager to continue our relentless effort to educate South Texas Property owners and the public about the issues that face our region. STPRA has done a wonderful job increasing membership despite the economic times. As of December 1, 2010 we have approximately 384 members and we have plenty of opportunity for growth in 2011. We will be hosting multiple fundraisers, events and participating in tradeshow such as the Texas Cattle Raisers Meeting in April.

One of the most effective ways of increasing membership is by word of mouth and referrals. STPRA is a necessary organization that will aid in protecting South Texas landowners rights and we welcome all referrals in order to keep STPRA going strong. If you know of any potential member that may have an interest in or could benefit from our organization, please let me know and I will personally contact them.

I would like to thank STPRA for giving me the opportunity to become a part of such a great organization. It has been a pleasure working with the staff and members these past two months and I look forward to all of the hard work that will go into 2011.



Tobi Kibbe, STPRA Marketing Director

Rudy's Feed Store

Nutrena Feeds, Record Rack Deer Feeds, Deer Corn, Loyall Dog Food, Crystalyx Tubs & More

Jeff Dyer

Ph: 361-325-2333

Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30

Saturday 8:30-1:00

612 N. St. Mary's
Falfurrias, TX 78355



From the Executive Director

Dear STPRA Members,

Another year is coming to an end..... my fourth year as Executive Director of this Association. I would like to thank the board of directors for their leadership and hard work this past year and to our members for being such stalwart supporters and advocates for private property rights in South Texas. Even as the economy slowed, you consistently renewed your memberships and helped us continue to steadily increase our numbers.

Accomplishments on our issues have been significant, but much work remains to be done. We have helped limit landowner liability resulting from law enforcement, secured a form of compensation for resulting damages, and have helped strengthen our rights under the Texas Constitution when eminent domain is invoked. Despite progress, however, all of these provisions must be strengthened. We will be working with our allies during the next legislative session, not only to build upon our accomplishments last session, but also to take the lead in establishing

groundwater ownership as a vested property right. Border security was our original issue and is still our most urgent. Thanks in part to our call for additional resources and policies that identify and isolate criminals, changes are being made, but we are still unsecure and in limbo. Please join with me, staff and board members in our continued dialogue with state and federal elected representatives to urge them to make border security, and all that it entails, a priority in 2011.

I would like to welcome Tobi Kibbe, our new Marketing Director, to STPRA. She has hit the ground running and I feel very fortunate to have her as a team mate. I would also like to thank Robert Howard, STPRA Consultant, for his wisdom and support, as a much valued part of our team. We are here to make your Association successful in every way possible, so please feel free to contact us at any time with your questions and comments.

Susan Durham, STPRA Executive Director

The Estate Tax



A law passed by Congress in 2001 stipulated that the estate tax would end in 2010 and be re-instated in 2011 at the lower exemption levels and higher rates that were in place in 2001. In 2001, the exemption was \$1,350,000 for a married couple, and half that for a single person. The maximum tax rate was 55 percent. Between 2002 and 2009, the exemption for a couple was gradually raised to \$7 million and the maximum rate was lowered to 45 percent. Gifts of any size from one spouse to the other are not taxed.

Congress basically has three options for addressing the issue of the estate tax, or “death tax” as it is also known: 1) doing nothing and going back to the 2001 exemption and rates, 2) making the 2009 rates and exemptions permanent, or 3) making the 2010 rules permanent, thereby eliminating the estate tax.

STPRA’s board of directors is considering the future of the estate tax and the views and positions of organizations with similar interests. Board members are paying particular attention to the position of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) which states that it continues its long-time support of the “full repeal” of the estate tax. TSCRA’s position further states that until the estate tax is fully repealed, it supports legislation that lowers rates, increases exemptions, and/or exempts “agricultural production assets from the tax.”

Please contact our congressional representatives to let them know your views.

Members Only Pages on New Website

STPRA Board Members and Staff would like to invite all of our members to browse our “Members Only” Section of our website. It contains position papers, essays, news articles, and other resources intended to educate landowners on private property rights. We also encourage all members to participate in our blog

to express their concerns or comment on issues that face our region. Participation in the blog will help STPRA staff meet the needs of our members and give everyone a chance to express their point of view. If you do not have a username and password, please contact Tobi Kibbe at tobi@stpra.org

Gate Signs are for Sale

\$25.00 each & \$5.00 for Shipping

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Number of Signs: _____



Please cut and mail w/payment to STPRA * PO Box 397 * Falfurrias, TX 78355

Membership Report

(Members listed by level)

Platinum

Alice East
Helen K. Groves
Berdon & Rolanette Lawrence
Nancy B. Negley
Walter Negley

Silver

Jesse Howell
Marshall & Claudia Miller

Bronze

Lee & Romona Bass
Presnall & Stephanie Cage
A.C. "Dick" & Ann Jones
John & Robin Kennedy
James & Katherine McAllen
Dan & Susan Miller & Family
Rick Van Horn
John & Shana Prukop

Sponsor

Jon Christian &
Mary Margaret Amberson
Will & Minnie Baird
Keith & Carol Brown
Gus T. Canales
John & Donna Cornelius
Caroline Forgason
Jim & Ann Gibbs
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Greeson
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Guerra
Henry & Ann Hamman
Bill & Elva Hellen
Bobby & Dee Fulbright
Robert Hinnant
Loyd & Mary Jary
Elizabeth Jones
Kathryn Day O'Connor
CR Palmer
Alonzo Peeler
John & Lica Pinkston
Charlotte Powell
Clive Runnels
Stuart Stedman
Stormy Stone
Timekeepers Security
Wallace & Isabel Wilson

Patron

Katharine Armstrong
Newell Atkinson
Edward & Ruth Austin
Darwin D. & Theresa Bluntzer
Baucum
Tom Brookshire
Mary Dru Burns
Steven & Elizabeth Burns
Gen Marc & Eddy Cisneros

Leroy Denman
Cindy B. Fitch
Mauro Garcia
Emory Hamilton
Robert & Sarita Hixon
Robert Howard
Phil & Karen Hunke
Anna S. Kibbe
Cullen & Carol Lynn Looney
Patrick & Kathryn Lutts
Steven & Heather Mafrige
Kirk McClelland
Richard Negley
James & Shawn Pettus
Neal & Gayle Runnels
Robert & Neel Scott
Arthur Seeligson, IV
David & Kathy Smyth
Jimmy & Karen Welder
Warren Wheeler
The John G & Marie Stella
Kenedy Foundation

Family

Katharine Armstrong
John C. Baker
Keith & Tessa Bowman
Donald & Ruth Brillhart
Trey & Tina Buford
Sharon Cage
Fred & Josie Cappadona
Bill & Peggy Clark
Stanley Coughran
Dorothy, Ester & Janie Minten
Lavoyger & Susan Durham
John & Somer East
Ben & Nancy Eshleman
Joseph & Blair Fitzsimons
Bruce & Linda Gilleland
Michael & Mimi Gregg
A.R. "Felo" Guerra
Eddie Guerra
J.R. "Dick" & Mary Holbein
Elaine Hubbard
Avery & Tobi Kibbe
JT Knolle
Marcus & Lica Layton
Joe & Teresa Long
Humberto & Nelda Martinez
Lowry McAllen
Joseph Mueller
Alberto & Lela Muzquiz
Stephen & Beth Knolle-Naiser
Morgan Dunn O'Connor
Ben & Kathy Olivarez
Franklin Painter
Scott Petty Jr.
RJ Hunter Family Properties
Hap & Dana Roberts
James & Paulette Southard
Charlotte & Don Sutton
Bill & Metta Talley
Thompson Family Partnership
Anne & Sam Thurwalker

Steven & Laurie Tipps
Claire & George Vaughn
Dr. Mike & Linda Vickers
Gene & Susan Walker
Irvin & Karla Welch
JE & Jane Wheeler
Will Paul & Dee Gee Wright

Individual

Grant Mynier
Wig & Connie Adams
Frank Armstrong
Kathleen & Kevin Avery
Hugo Berlanga
William Book
John Burris
Dr. Lou Carter
Ray Carter, Jr.
Sylvia Chavez
Morton Cohn
Susan Combs
Bill H. Conner
Mitchell Dale
Bernie DeLaune
Scott Dodds
James L & Leighton Donnell
Jeff Dyer
Tim Ehrman
Bill & Phyllis Findley
Kenneth & Anna Floyd
Craig Franklin
Walt Franklin
T. Dan & Debra Friedkin
Jim & Shana Gates
Richard & Rebecca Guerra
Will Harte
David & Elaine Haunschild
Eduardo & Ann Hinojosa
Charles R Hoffman
George Hoffman
Charles Hornsby
Mark T Hubbard
J.R. Hurd
Gene Jones
William Whitby Jones III
Tom Joseph
Lacy Kibbe
Pearson Knolle
Michael James Krueger
Edward & Ann Lasater
James W Layssard
Kipp Layton
Joe Little
Norberto Lopez
Lee Lytton III
John & Audrey Martin
Mario & Velma Martinez
Glen & Shannon Mayo
Lawrence Miller
Henry Minten
Brad Moore
Herman Ohlenbusch
Barbara A Potts
Samuel Rodriguez Jr.

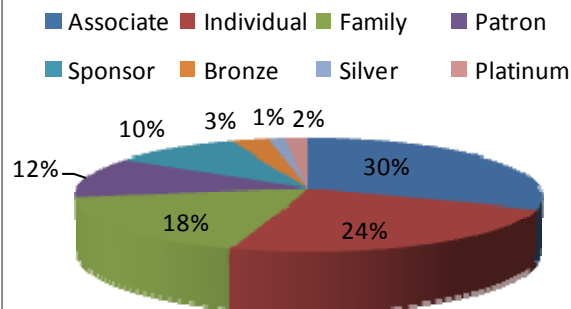
Bill Speer
Ron Surprise
Adair Sutherland
Texas Landowner's Council
C Clark Welder
Tom Wheat
Karen Wheeler
Harry Whittington
James Winch
Mimi Zoch

Associate

Harry Anthony
Keith Atkins
Dr. John S. Baen
Arturo Barrera
Fabricio Barrera
Gus Barrera
Anne Bayless
James Bradford
John Bradshaw
Benny Cantu
Jeffrey Chavez
Tony Chavez
Martin Clement
Gregg Colleum
Brian Michael Cromeens
Jonathon Dodd
John Dorn
Bart Dupont
Grady & Hayley Engelking
Cody Fry
Emiliano & Juanita Galindo
Alvaro Garcia, Jr.
Dr. Oscar Garcia
Mike & Cindy Garrett
Ed Globe
Edwin & Katherine Goldapp
Paul Goranson
David Grall
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Brent Hoffman
Jenna Hoffman
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Gary English
Xenia Katcsmorak
David Kelley
Lindsey Koenig
David Langford
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Whitney A. Marion
Dr. Justin G. Marion
Roy Martinez
Travis Michael
Gerry Miller
Doug Moe
Erasmus & Carl Montemayor
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Homer Mora
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Mike Pickering
Clint Powell
Rob & Kathleen Price
Mira Pulido
Sergio R Ramirez
Francisco Javier Rodriguez
Julia Ruhlman
Guadalupe Sanchez
Robert Sanders
Jenny Sanders
Howard & Bozena Shaw
Sabastian Shaw
Feliz Serna
Bud Smith
John Staha
Joe Stiles
Sara K Tays
Michael Tewes
Nathan Vejdos
Craig Weilland
Kathleen Welder
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wilson
Clare Wonders
James Wonders

% of Members per Level





South Texans' Property Rights Association

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Making a Difference for a Better South Texas



STPRA, a 501 c) (3), is a publicly supported charity and your contribution may be deductible depending on your personal tax situation.