

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District (ACGCD) is conducting a public hearing to receive public comments/input on the **Proposed Desired Future Conditions for Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 15**. The hearing will be held at **5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at the Aquarium Education Center, 706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, Texas**. Further information about the ACGCD can be found at Aransas County's website: <http://www.aransascountytx.gov/groundwatercomm/>

INTRODUCTION

In order to help protect one of our valuable resources the ARANSAS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT has been established.

The District was AUTHORIZED BY THE LEGISLATURE LAST SUMMER, AND IS MANAGED BY FIVE APPOINTED DIRECTORS.

THE DISTRICT IS A TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION AT THE MOMENT AND IS SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY COUNTY VOTERS AT THE MAY 7th ELECTION.

ON THE BALLOT YOU WILL BE ASKED TO VOTE FOR OR AGAINST: **“ THE CREATION OF THE ARANSAS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADVOLORUM TAX IN THE DISTRICT AT A RATE NOT TO EXCEED ONE CENT FOR EACH \$100 ASSESSED VALUATION.”** (The boundaries of the district are the county boundaries.)

SO WHAT THE HECK IS A GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT??

THE PURPOSE OF A GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT WATERS OF OUR SUB-SURFACE AQUIFERS FROM WASTE, ABUSE, OVER MINING, AND OVER PUMPING. The objective is TO MANAGE USE OF GROUNDWATER SO THAT 50 YEARS OR SO FROM NOW THE AQUIFER DRAW DOWN IN ARANSAS COUNTY WILL BE AT A LEVEL AGREED WITH THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD, GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 15 AND THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. THIS AGREED LEVEL IS KNOWN AS **“ A DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION”** At the moment this drawdown is **“O”** for our aquifers.

The DFC number is reviewed every 5 years and may be adjusted with agreement by other members of GMA 15. The DFC represents an aquifer level predicted to serve the needs of agriculture, industry and consumer use in the year 2056.

GMA 15 is composed of all of the districts of counties adjoining Aransas County. We are surrounded! Groundwater Management Areas are roughly bounded by the boundaries of underlying aquifers while Groundwater Conservation Districts are bounded by county lines. GCD's work together to establish reasonable DFC's which vary from district to district depending on the type of water use, surface or ground, purpose: agricultural, industrial or home use.

Surface water satisfies our needs for consumer use. Potable water is purchased by the City of Rockport from the San Patricio Municipal Water District and comes primarily from the Nueces River. The city then distributes the water to city and county customers.

The principal use for groundwater in the district is for irrigation. There are one or two high capacity wells (25,000 gallons/day) supporting subdivisions in Lamar. Shallow wells are used to supply water for irrigation of flower beds and shrubbery.

However, over future years groundwater may be needed to support industrial consumption and the county needs to prepare itself to be able to attract industry and broaden our local economy. There will also be competition from commercial/industrial concerns from the same aquifers underlying our County.

Where will the tax money be going? This small tax will be used to develop the knowledge and rules to:

Publish a Management Plan

Establish a data base of wells and their production rates and annual gallons pumped.

Register all wells within the County.

Establish criteria for requiring permits for new wells.

Establish pumpage fees for high volume users depending on gallons expected to be pumped.

Monitor the levels of groundwater in our aquifers.

Compile information about our annual drawdown and natural recharge rates.

Control well spacing to prevent wrongful appropriation of water under neighboring properties.

Control the export of groundwater to locations outside the county.

Monitor and detect unlawful disposal of hazardous wastes which may contaminate aquifers

Coordinate other districts within the GMA to increase or decrease the DFC if necessary and within GMA15 parameters.

Using the above information and tools to effectively manage pumping within the County to meet the DFC.

GWD Directors appointed by Commissioners Court:

Tom Callan, Chairman, At large

John Anderson, Vice Chairman, Precinct 4/4A

Robert Walls, Director, Precinct 1

Lynn Wildman, Secretary, Precinct 3

Ed Hegen, Director, Precinct 2

Additional Information:

Pamphlet: Google: "About Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas"

Texas Water Development Board website

www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/conservation_districts/index.asp

Public Hearings: a hearing will be scheduled soon to discuss the desired future condition agreed by GMA 15 which affects us.

Articles to be published in Rockport Pilot, Wonderful Womens Network etc.

Talks to be given to various civic groups during February, March and April. Call us if you need a speaker at one of your events.

District Board meetings 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, Aquarium Education Center at 5:30. Usually 1 – 2 hours. Open records/meetings act rules apply.

DRAFT

**ARANSAS COUNTY
GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

To help protect our groundwater resources the ARANSAS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (the District) was established BY THE 84th LEGISLATURE LAST SUMMER. It is managed by five directors appointed by Commissioners Court. The district is a temporary organization at the moment and is subject to confirmation by county voters at an election on May 7th.

Voters will be asked to vote for or against: **“ THE CREATION OF THE ARANSAS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADVOLORUM TAX IN THE DISTRICT AT A RATE NOT TO EXCEED ONE CENT FOR EACH \$100 ASSESSED VALUATION.”** (Example: \$200,000 in property value would pay a \$20 tax.)

The purpose of a groundwater conservation district is to preserve and protect waters of our aquifers from waste, abuse, over mining, and over pumping. The objective is to manage use of groundwater so that 50 years or so from now the aquifers underlying the county will be able to support home owners, farms and commercial/industrial enterprises. Trees also rely on groundwater and are a valuable county resource to be preserved. The aquifers are to be maintained at a level agreed with the Texas water Development Board and Groundwater Management Area 15.

The following information is taken from the Texas Water Development Board website and is furnished to help voters understand what the Groundwater Conservation District is and how it will operate.

1. A Groundwater Conservation District is a district created under the Texas Constitution that has the authority to regulate the spacing of water wells, the production from water wells or both.
2. Currently there are 100 GCD's in Texas: 97 have been confirmed and three are yet to be confirmed by voters through local elections.
3. Each GCD will manage groundwater through a Groundwater Management Plan which describes its groundwater management goals. These goals include providing the most efficient use of groundwater, controlling and preventing waste of groundwater, controlling and preventing subsidence, addressing associated surface water management issues, addressing natural resource issues, addressing drought conditions, addressing conservation, groundwater recharge and desired future aquifer conditions.
4. All districts are required to prepare Management Plans and submit them to the Texas Water Development Board for approval.
5. Management Plans must be reviewed and resubmitted for approval every five years.

The Management Plan includes performance standards and management objectives under which the District will operate to achieve its management goals.

The Plan provides details of how the District will manage groundwater supplies in the district, including a methodology by which the District will track its progress in achieving its management goals.

The Plan will provide detailed descriptions of actions, procedures, performance and avoidance measures that are or may be necessary to effect the plan including specifications and proposed rules.

The plan is based on estimates of the following:

- Modeled available groundwater in the district
- The amount of groundwater being used within the district on an annual basis
- The annual amount of recharge from precipitation, if any, to the groundwater resources within the district
- The annual volume of water that discharges from each aquifer in the district to springs and surface water bodies
- The annual volumes of flow into and out of the district within each aquifer and between aquifers in the district if a groundwater availability model is present.
- The projected surface water supply in the district according to the most recent state water plan
- The projected total demand for water within the district according to the most recent state water plan; and
- Consideration of the water supply needs and water management strategies within the district according to the most recent state water plan.

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