

# Recharge: Your Groundwater Resource

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District Newsletter

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Spring 2007

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## Water Links

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts - [www.texasgroundwater.org](http://www.texasgroundwater.org)

Texas Water Development Board - [www.twdb.state.tx.us](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us)

National Groundwater Association—[www.ngwa.org](http://www.ngwa.org)

Texas Ground Water Association - [www.tgwa.org](http://www.tgwa.org)



## General Manager Updates

### WaterWise Returns

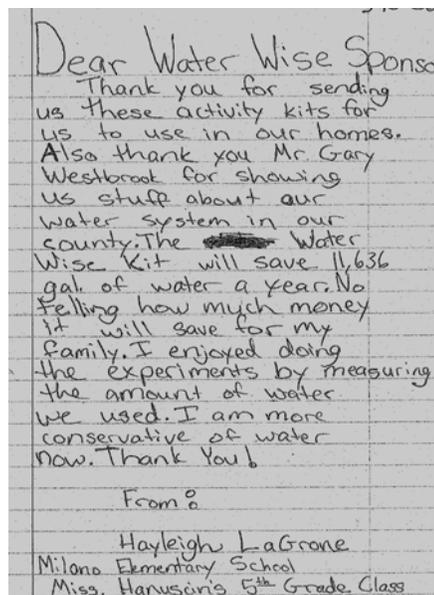
During the 2005-2006 school year, POSGCD, in cooperation with fourteen elementary schools within the district, taught water conservation to students with the WaterWise program. This program helps students and their families learn about preventing groundwater pollution and how they can conserve water. The program provides families with high efficiency devices and builds student knowledge. This is what some of the students, teachers, and parents said last year:

*The students were anxious to receive the conservation material. They loved the parent student interaction of installing the equipment.*

**Sandra Love, Milano Elementary**

*Thank You! We can see a difference already. What a great program! My daughter was really excited when she brought home the kit.*

**Bobby E. Morrison, Thorndale Elementary**



And program statistics show:

- 79 percent reported that they worked with their family on the program.
- 74 percent reported that they changed the way they use water.
- 56 percent reported they installed the high efficiency showerheads.
- 100 percent of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that materials and activities were well received.
- 100 percent of teachers would conduct the program again.

Because of its success, the WaterWise program will be taught again in schools this year. We look forward to sharing this exciting program with our communities.

### Well Water Depths

This past January, POSGCD assumed responsibility from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for monitoring water levels in selected wells in Burleson and Milam Counties. POSGCD is working closely with the TWDB, Groundwater Management Areas (your District is included in GMA 8 and 12), regional planning group G, and well owner participants to ensure that the Districts Well Monitoring Program continues to yield much needed

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### Inside This Issue

- General Manager Updates
- Capped Versus Uncapped Wells
- Groundwater Marketing Myths
- Improving Livestock Pens
- Calendar of Events



**Uncapped** wells are a physical hazard to people, livestock, pets, and they make drinking water vulnerable to pollutants.



A **properly capped** well is one that is closed or capped with a covering capable of preventing surface pollutants from entering the well and that can sustain a weight of 400 pounds, and is constructed in such a way that it cannot be easily removed by hand.

## Myths and Misconceptions of Groundwater Marketing Clarified in New Resource Guide

Landowners and groundwater conservation districts in Texas have a new information resource on groundwater marketing. With much information being spread regarding underground water rights and groundwater marketing in Texas, deciphering fact from fiction can be hard. The newly released report “Myths and Facts about Groundwater Marketing,” dispels some of the more common misconceptions and provides useful information to landowners considering water marketing proposals and groundwater districts managing areas with marketing interest.

“While groundwater marketing is nothing new to Texas, the scale of several recent marketing proposals is unprecedented,” said Laura Marbury, water analyst with Environmental Defense’s Texas Office.

As many areas of the state face a future water crunch, concerns about groundwater marketing and exportation are growing.

“It’s important for everyone involved to understand the full scope of what’s at stake in the exportation of groundwater,” Marbury said. “Decisions made now will affect our water resources for generations to come. Groundwater

conservation districts and landowners play integral roles in these decisions and the responsibility for making wise and informed choices rests on their shoulders.”

Covering topics such as hydrogeology, natural resource issues, and contract negotiations, this resource guide will prove to be indispensable for making those decisions.

A few of the myths the new report works to dispel:

- If an aquifer contains billions of gallons of water, the volume of groundwater that can be withdrawn from one property is merely a drop in the bucket.
- The “rule of capture” results in a free and open market and is good for groundwater marketing.
- It is economically advantageous for the landowner to negotiate a deal with the groundwater lessee under which his compensation will be based on the lessee’s profits.

“Myths and Facts about Groundwater Marketing,” is available online at:

[www.texaswatermatters.org/pdfs/articles/fact\\_fiction.pdf](http://www.texaswatermatters.org/pdfs/articles/fact_fiction.pdf).

*Environmental Defense, a leading national nonprofit organization, represents more than 500,000 members. Since 1967, Environmental Defense has linked science, economics, law, and innovative private-sector partnerships to create breakthrough solutions to the most serious environmental problems.*

## Reducing Risk of Groundwater Contamination by Improving Livestock Holding Pens

### Assess Your Well Area and Livestock Pens

- ◆ Is a livestock feedyard or holding facility on your property?
- ◆ Are any water wells downslope from or closer than 150 feet to livestock feeding areas?
- ◆ Does your facility lack clean water diversion?
- ◆ Does water run off your livestock facility in an uncontrolled manner?
- ◆ Do you fail to clean manure from your livestock feeding area in a timely manner? (once per week for dairy cattle or once every 1 or 2 months for beef cattle)
- ◆ Are your livestock holding facilities overstocked?



### Separation Distance From Well

Wells should be located in an elevated area upslope from the livestock feed yard so that runoff will drain away from wells. The Texas water well code requires a minimum separation of 150 feet between existing livestock and new wells.

### Avoid Poor sites to place wells

A poor site has shallow soil, high water table, or very sandy/gravelly soil with excessive drainage and high permeability.

### Divert Water

Use small terraces and roof gutters to direct water away from livestock pens.

Construct a ridge or diversion terrace across the slope to prevent runoff from entering the feed yard.

### Clean Feedlot Regularly

Cleaning and scraping once per week is preferable for dairy cattle, or once every month or two for beef cattle.

### Manure Storage and Waste Utilization

Store waste and use as fertilizer. Manure can be a valuable fertilizer and soil conditioner. When managed properly, the nutrients in manure can be substituted for commercial fertilizers while saving money and protecting groundwater and surface water.

*The information for this article were adapted from Pamphlet B-6031, Reducing the Risk of Groundwater Contamination by Improving Livestock Holding Pen Management by B.L. Harris, D.W. Hoffman, and F.J. Mazac, Jr. of the Texas Cooperative Extension. Additional information can be obtained from this pamphlet and the Texas Water Resources Institute Web site at <http://twri.tamu.edu/about.php>.*

Groundwater conservation districts are the state's preferred method of groundwater management through rules developed, adopted, and promulgated by a district.

Texas Water Code, Sec. 36.0015

**POSGCD Mission Statement**—Our mission is to strategically manage the groundwater resources of Burtleson and Milam counties in order to protect against aquifer depletion and pollution and to ensure an adequate water supply for future generations. Through responsible management, we will accomplish this undertaking of preservation by collecting data, monitoring groundwater levels, regulating excessive production, permitting, educating the public and coordinating with neighboring districts for mutual benefit.

**Calendar of Events**

April

12th—GMA 8 meeting, 10 am Lampasas Co. Annex Conference Room, Lampasas, TX  
 23rd-24th—Texas Water Law, Intercontinental, 2222 West Loop, Houston, TX, CLE Internations www.cle.com  
 28th—Brazos Valley Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 9 am-4 pm, Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, TX  
 29th through May 3rd—Ground Water Summit, Albuquerque, NM

May

8th—POSGCD Board of Directors Meeting, 5:30 pm, District Office, Milano, TX  
 10th—GMA 12, 10 am Milano Community and Civic Center, 120 West Ave E, Milano, TX

June

21st—Association of Water Board of Directors Annual Conference, Corpus Christi, TX

**Depths** (continued from Page 1)

information on the water levels in the aquifers in this District.

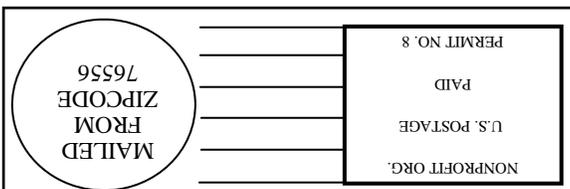
The program is a valuable asset in that it provides well owners with information on their well water levels and the TWDB with data for groundwater modeling. TWDB then provides modeling results to the GMA's who have the responsibility to make local decisions about the management of the resources through the Groundwater Districts in that GMA . Without the well monitoring program, we would not be able to provide sufficient data and local input for water planning efforts that are important for conserving our Districts water supply for future generations. We truly appreciate our well owner participation and cooperation in this endeavor.

**ARE WE PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED?**  
 The District Staff would like to know what information you would like to see in this newsletter. Contact us at the District offices or email us at [posgcd3@tconline.net](mailto:posgcd3@tconline.net) with your suggestions.



POSGCD was created to conserve and regulate the use of groundwater through monitoring of aquifer levels and production and encourage conservation rules which limit pumping, thereby extending the quantity and quality of the water available in all of the aquifers in Milam and Burleson counties. POSGCD is a member of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD).

**Look for our next issue in Summer 2007!**



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