



Texas Alliance Of  
Groundwater Districts

# Groundwater Conservation Districts Powers & Responsibilities

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Milam & Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit

August 11, 2016



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## TAGD=Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts





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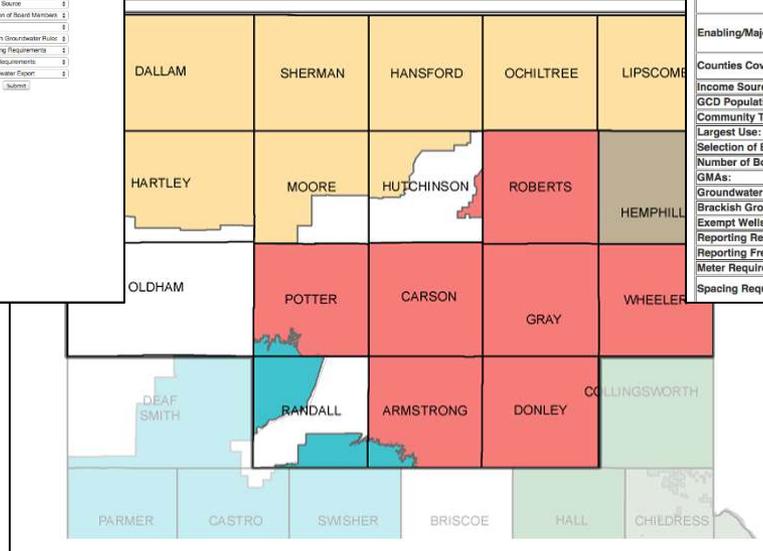
## What does TAGD do?

- Educational and technical training
- Tracks legislation & agency rulemaking
- Serves as a resource for districts, the public, lawmakers, and state agencies
- Facilitates communication among GCDs
- Collects data on GCDs



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# TAGD's GCD Index



TAGD North Plains Groundwater Conservation District	
<b>Contact:</b>	Steve Walthour General Manager 603 East First Street Dumas, Texas 79029 (800) 955-5401 <a href="http://www.npgcd.org">http://www.npgcd.org</a>
<b>Enabling/Major Legislation:</b>	Acts 1965, 54th R.S., ch. 498, General and Special Laws of Texas; Acts 1985, 69th R.S., ch. 63, General and Special Laws of Texas; Acts 1993, 68th R.S., ch. 760, General and Special Laws of Texas; Acts 1999, 76th R.S., ch. 1152, General and Special Laws of Texas
<b>Counties Covered:</b>	All of Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Hansford, Sherman and Dallam Counties; parts of Hartley, Moore, and Hutchinson Counties
<b>Income Source:</b>	Both
<b>GCD Population:</b>	50,001-100,000
<b>Community Type:</b>	Rural
<b>Largest Use:</b>	Agriculture
<b>Selection of Board Members:</b>	Elected
<b>Number of Board Members:</b>	7
<b>GMAs:</b>	GMA 1
<b>Groundwater Export:</b>	Yes
<b>Brackish Groundwater Rules:</b>	No (encompassed within current regulations of all groundwater)
<b>Exempt Wells:</b>	Chapter 36 exemptions only
<b>Reporting Requirements:</b>	Yes, for all permitted wells
<b>Reporting Frequency:</b>	Annually
<b>Meter Requirements:</b>	Yes, for all permitted wells
<b>Spacing Requirements:</b>	Wells must be at least 100 yards from property lines; additional spacing requirements are based on well capacity.



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# What does Lloyd Gosselink do?



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GCDs

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GCD Power & Responsibilities

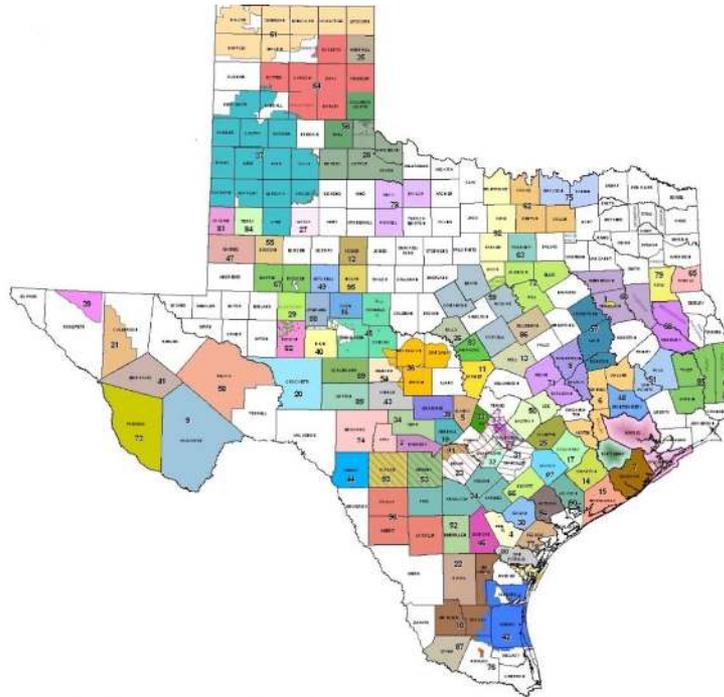
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Issues & Challenges



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# GCD=Groundwater Conservation Districts





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# Operational Components of a GCD

Well  
Permitting and  
Enforcement

Well  
Monitoring

Public  
Education

Research &  
Science

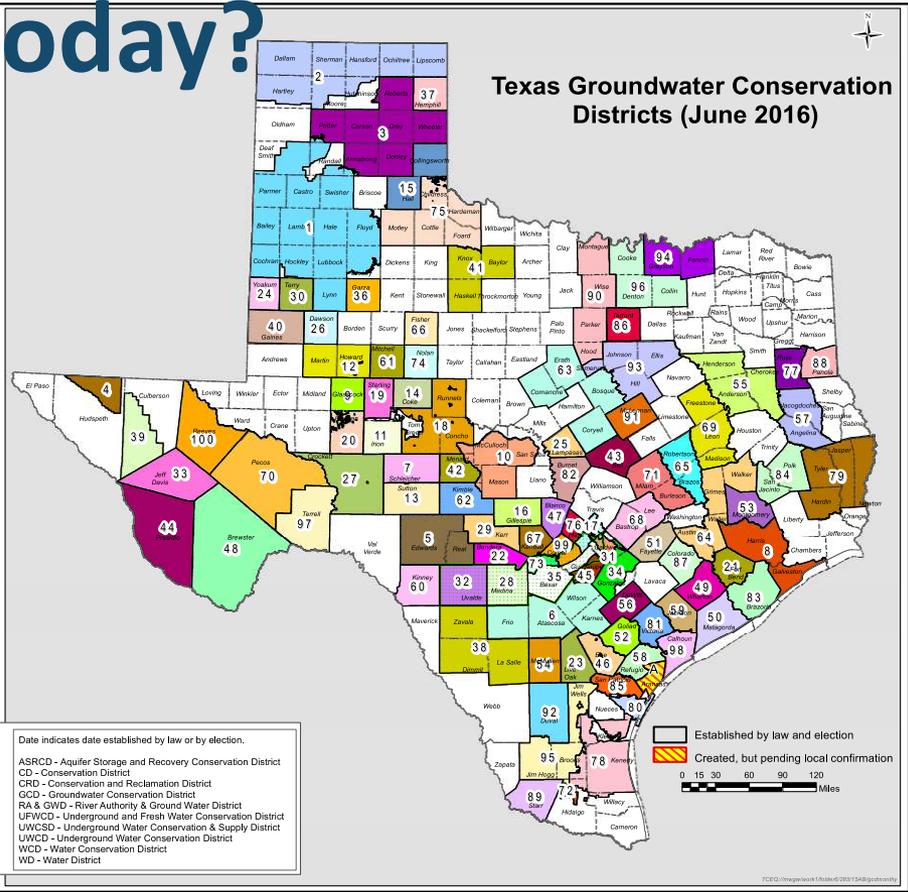
Regional  
Planning

Water Quality

# Where are GCDs today?

- |                                                    |                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1 High Plains UWCD No. 1 - 9/29/1951               | 52 Clear Fork GCD - 11/6/2001               |
| 2 North Plains GCD - 1/2/1950                      | 53 Lone Star GCD - 11/6/2001                |
| 3 Panhandle GCD - 1/21/1956                        | 54 McMullen GCD - 11/6/2001                 |
| 4 Hudspeth County UWCD No. 1 - 10/5/1957           | 55 Neches & Trinity Valleys GCD - 11/6/2001 |
| 5 Real-Edwards C and R District - 5/30/1959        | 56 Pecan Valley GCD - 11/6/2001             |
| 6 Evergreen UWCD - 8/30/1965                       | 57 Pineywoods GCD - 11/6/2001               |
| 7 Plateau UWC and Supply District - 3/4/1974       | 58 Refugio GCD - 11/6/2001                  |
| 8 Harris-Galveston Subsidence District - 4/23/1975 | 59 Texana GCD - 11/6/2001                   |
| 9 Glasscock GCD - 8/22/1981                        | 60 Kinney County GCD - 11/2/2002            |
| 10 Hickory UWCD No. 1 - 8/14/1982                  | 61 Lone Wolf GCD - 2/2/2002                 |
| 11 Irion County WCD - 8/2/1985                     | 62 Kimble County GCD - 5/3/2002             |
| 12 Permian Basin UWCD - 9/21/1985                  | 63 Middle Trinity GCD - 5/4/2002            |
| 13 Sutton County UWCD - 4/5/1986                   | 64 Bluebonnet GCD - 11/5/2002               |
| 14 Coke County UWCD - 11/4/1986                    | 65 Brazos Valley GCD - 11/5/2002            |
| 15 Mesquite GCD - 11/4/1986                        | 66 Clear Fork GCD - 11/6/2002               |
| 16 Hill Country UWCD - 8/8/1987                    | 67 Cow Creek GCD - 11/5/2002                |
| 17 Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer CD - 8/13/1987   | 68 Lost Pines GCD - 11/5/2002               |
| 18 Lipan-Kickapoo WCD - 11/3/1987                  | 69 Mid-East Texas GCD - 11/5/2002           |
| 19 Sterling County UWCD - 11/3/1987                | 70 Middle Pecos GCD - 11/5/2002             |
| 20 Santa Rita UWCD - 8/19/1989                     | 71 Post Oak Savannah GCD - 11/5/2002        |
| 21 Fort Bend Subsidence District - 8/28/1989       | 72 Red Sands GCD - 11/5/2002                |
| 22 Bandera County RA & GWD - 11/7/1989             | 73 Trinity Glen Rose GCD - 11/5/2002        |
| 23 Live Oak UWCD - 11/7/1989                       | 74 Wes-Tex GCD - 11/5/2002                  |
| 24 Sandy Land UWCD - 11/7/1989                     | 75 Gateway GCD - 5/3/2003                   |
| 25 Saratoga UWCD - 11/7/1989                       | 76 Hays Trinity GCD - 5/3/2003              |
| 26 Mesa UWCD - 1/20/1990                           | 77 Rusk County GCD - 6/5/2004               |
| 27 Crockett County GCD - 1/26/1991                 | 78 Kennedy County GCD - 11/2/2004           |
| 28 Medina County GCD - 8/26/1991                   | 79 Southeast Texas GCD - 11/2/2004          |
| 29 Headwaters UWCD - 11/5/1991                     | 80 Corpus Christi ASRCD - 6/17/2005         |
| 30 South Plains UWCD - 2/8/1992                    | 81 Victoria County GCD - 8/5/2005           |
| 31 Plum Creek CD - 5/1/1993                        | 82 Central Texas GCD - 9/24/2005            |
| 32 Uvalde County UWCD - 9/1/1993                   | 83 Brazoria County GCD - 11/8/2005          |
| 33 Jeff Davis County UWCD - 11/2/1993              | 84 Lower Trinity GCD - 11/7/2006            |
| 34 Gonzales County UWCD - 11/2/1994                | 85 San Patricio County GCD - 5/12/2007      |
| 35 Edwards Aquifer Authority - 7/28/1994           | 86 Northern Trinity GCD - 5/15/2007         |
| 36 Garza County UWCD - 11/5/1996                   | 87 Colorado County GCD - 11/6/2007          |
| 37 Hemphill County UWCD - 11/4/1997                | 88 Panola County GCD - 11/6/2007            |
| 38 Wintergarden GCD - 1/17/1998                    | 89 Starr County GCD - 11/6/2007             |
| 39 Culberson County GCD - 5/2/1998                 | 90 Upper Trinity GCD - 11/6/2007            |
| 40 Llano Estacado UWCD - 11/31/1998                | 91 Southern Trinity GCD - 6/19/2009         |
| 41 Rolling Plains GCD - 1/26/1999                  | 92 Duval County GCD - 7/25/2009             |
| 42 Menard County UWCD - 8/14/1999                  | 93 Prairielands GCD - 9/1/2009              |
| 43 Clearwater UWCD - 8/21/1999                     | 94 Red River GCD - 9/1/2009                 |
| 44 Presidio County UWCD - 8/31/1999                | 95 Brush Country GCD - 11/3/2009            |
| 45 Guadalupe County GCD - 11/14/1999               | 96 North Texas GCD - 12/1/2009              |
| 46 Bee GCD - 1/20/2001                             | 97 Terrell County GCD - 11/6/2012           |
| 47 Blanco-Pedernales GCD - 1/23/2001               | 98 Calhoun County GCD - 11/4/2014           |
| 48 Brewster County GCD - 11/6/2001                 | 99 Comal Trinity GCD - 6/17/2015            |
| 49 Coastal Bend GCD - 11/6/2001                    | 100 Reeves County GCD - 11/3/2015           |
| 50 Coastal Plains GCD - 11/6/2001                  |                                             |
| 51 Fayette County GCD - 11/6/2001                  |                                             |

**Pending Confirmation**  
A - Aransas County GCD



### Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

This map was prepared by the TCEQ for display purposes only. No claims are made to the accuracy or completeness of the information shown herein nor is this map suitable for any other use. The scale and location of mapped data are approximate. Conservation districts that are not land survey data and may not accurately depict legal descriptions. For more information about this map, please contact TCEQ - Water Availability Division, Groundwater Planning & Assessment Team at (512) 236-4691.

Map printed June 1, 2016.



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GCDs

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GCD Power & Responsibilities

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Issues & Challenges



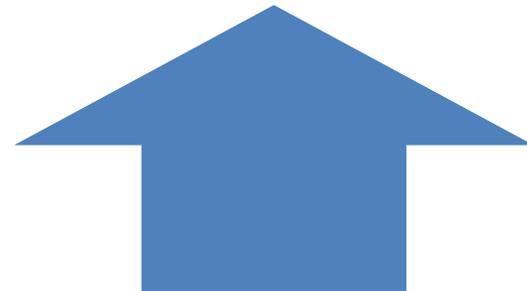
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## Balancing Act



Conservation, preservation, protection,  
recharging and prevention of waste of  
groundwater

Rights of Landowners and  
the highest practicable  
level of groundwater  
production





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# Aquifer Management

GCD's regulate in the following ways:

- Well spacing regulations
- Acreage-based regulations
- Use-based regulations

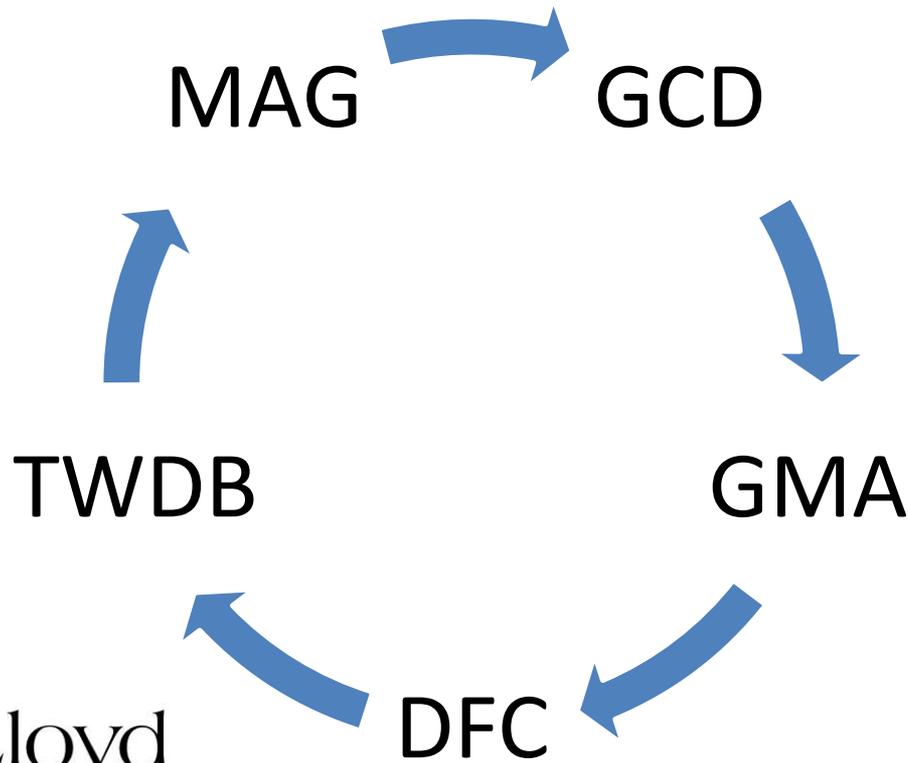
Exemptions from permitting requirements include:

- Wells specifically exempted by the board of directors
- Certain domestic and livestock wells
- Certain wells related to oil and gas or mining activities



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## Joint Planning





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## DFC=Desired Future Condition

- Desired future condition = quantifiable future groundwater metric (what aquifer will look like in future); overall management objective
- GCDs must implement a balancing test and consider:

Aquifer Uses  
or Conditions

State Water  
Plan

Hydrological  
Conditions

Private  
Property  
Rights

Impacts on  
Subsidence

Socioeconomic  
Impacts

Environmental  
Impacts

Feasibility of  
achieving DFC

Any other  
relevant  
information



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# Transfer of Groundwater out of a GCD

Section 36.122 of the Texas Water Code governs groundwater transfers out of a GCD

§§ (c) – GCD may not impose more restrictive permit conditions on transporters than GCD imposes on in-district users

§§ (d) – GCD may impose an export fee or surcharge on groundwater transferred out of a district



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# Transfer of Groundwater cont'd

Section 36.122 cont'd

§§ (f) – GCD can consider several factors when making a decision on transfer:

- Availability of water within GCD and receiving area
- Proposed effect on aquifer
- Regional Water Plan and GCD Management Plan

§§ (q) – GCD must be fair, impartial, and nondiscriminatory



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# Important Roles of GCDs

Investment in Science



GCDs are investing significant amounts of money to generate regional and site-specific hydrogeologic information

Data Collection



Creating baseline groundwater information that will be used for years to come

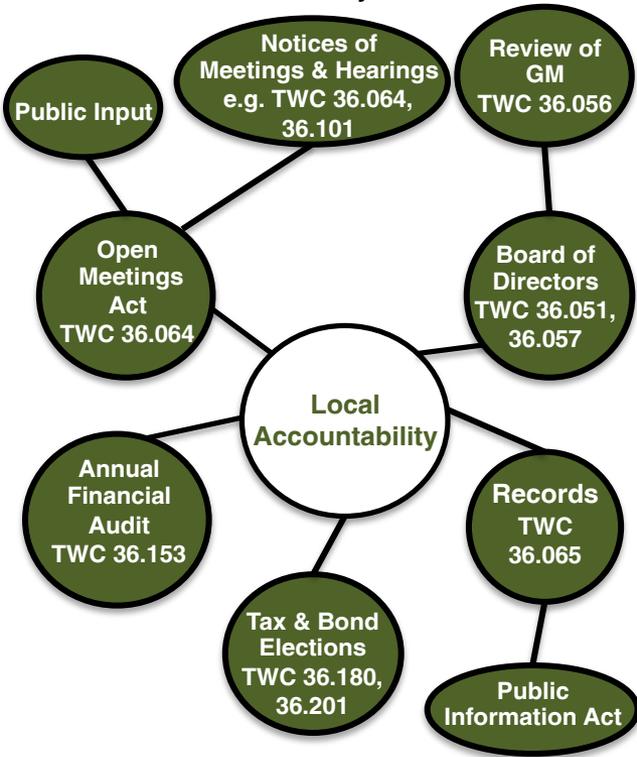
# Current GCD Accountability Metrics

A review of accountability mechanisms in effect

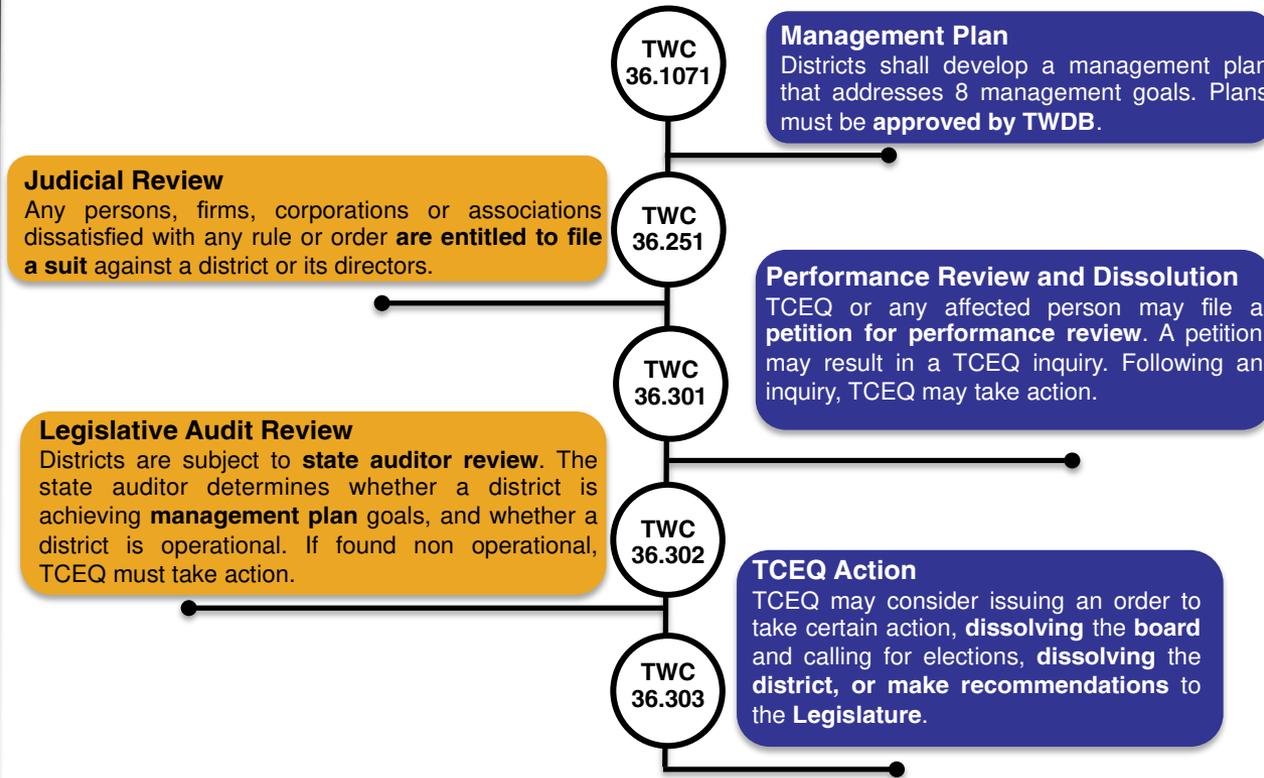
A summary of current accountability mechanisms is provided to improve the dialogue on Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) performance. Current evaluation methods ensure statutory compliance and accountability on three levels: local, legislative & judiciary, and state agencies.



## Local Accountability Mechanisms



## Accountability Provisions in Texas Water Code (TWC)



## Opportunities

Consider importance of board & stakeholder education

Consider improvements to legislative audit review process

Consider difference between statutory compliance and performance metrics



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GCDs

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GCD Power & Responsibilities

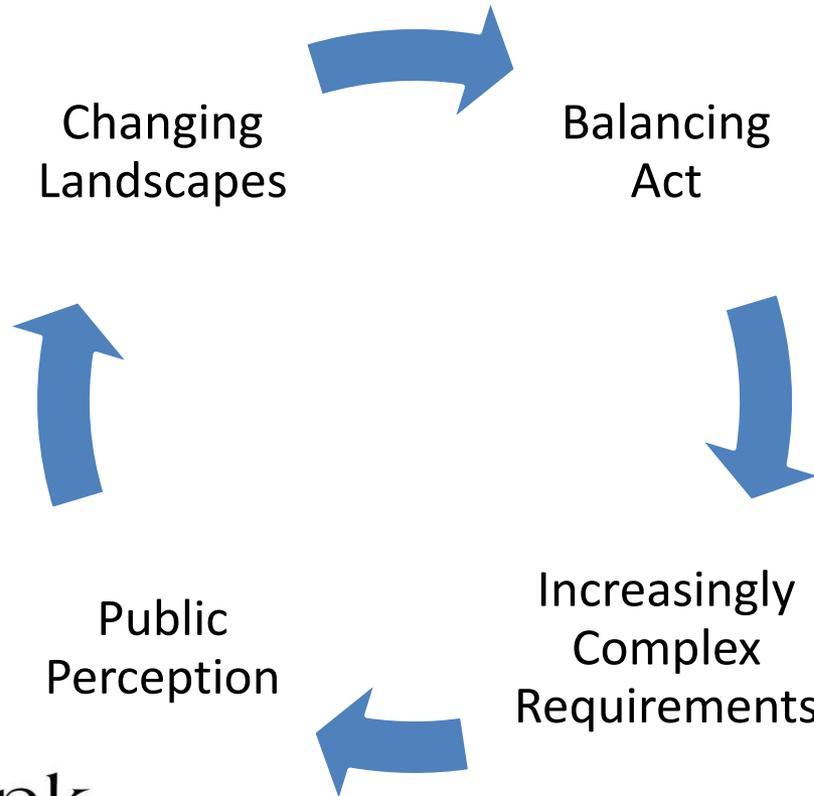
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Issues & Challenges



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# Management Challenges





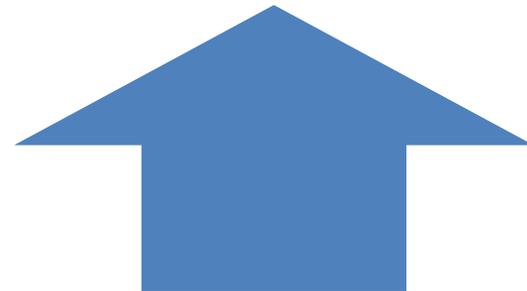
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## Balancing Act

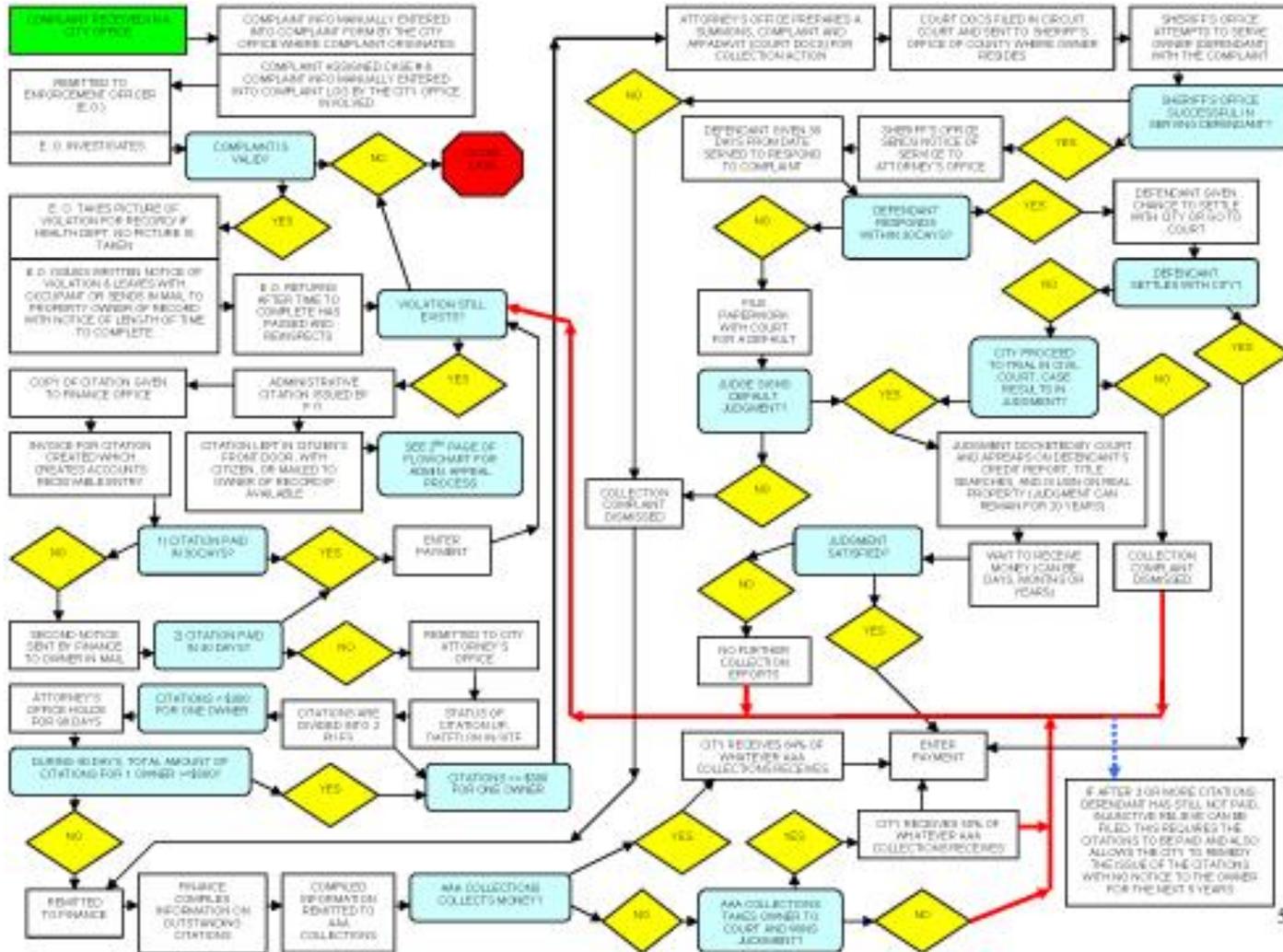


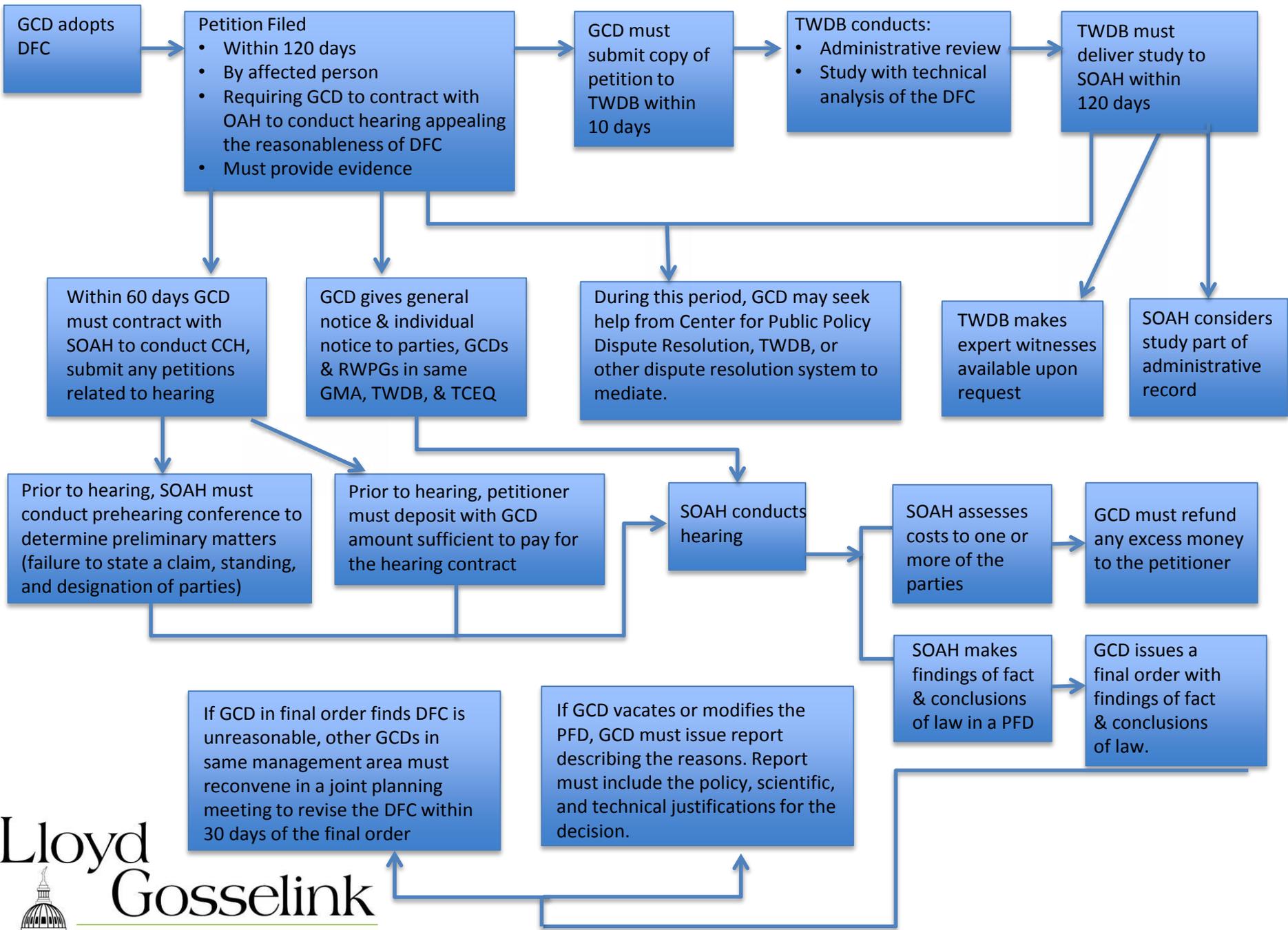
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Rights of Landowners and  
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production



# Increasingly Complex Requirements







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# Public Perception

Best Available Science

Policy Decisions

- 
- Population Dynamics
  - Aquifer Conditions
  - Forecasting
  - Local Industry
  - Socio Economic Considerations



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# Changing Landscapes: Policy drivers in Texas Groundwater



Legislation + Agency Rulemaking
Case Law
Emerging Technologies
Environmental Factors
Population Dynamics



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## Questions?

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