

Draft Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District

Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP)



Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District

310 East Avenue C

Milano, TX 76556

512.455.9900

April 2017

Introduction

The mission of the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (POSGCD) is to provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater, and to protect groundwater users, by adopting and enforcing rules consistent with state law. The District accomplishes this mission by developing and enforcing rules to manage groundwater production and by participating in joint planning with adjacent and nearby districts to manage groundwater conditions across Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 12 and GMA 8.

Among the important considerations in managing groundwater in POSGCD are statutory requirements in the Texas Water Code (TWC) that require a balance between groundwater production and protection. TWC Section 36.0015 (b) states that one purpose of a groundwater conservation district (GCD) is “to protect property rights, balance the conservation and development of groundwater to meet the needs of the state, and use the best available science in the conservation and development of groundwater.” In addition, TWC Section 36.108 (d)(d-2) states that the desired future conditions (DFC) development through the joint planning process for districts “must provide a balance between the highest practicable level of groundwater production and the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater and the control of subsidence in the management area.”

A potential consequence associated with providing for the highest practicable level of groundwater production and respecting groundwater as a property right is that groundwater pumping may cause water level declines that adversely impact the production capacity of some wells. In order to help well owners whose wells have experienced a reduction in their production capacity as a result of groundwater production in GMA 12, POSGCD has established the Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP).

Purpose and Funding

The primary purpose of the GWAP is to restore a water supply to well owners in the District who own a well that has experienced significant adverse impacts from groundwater level declines caused by aquifer-wide groundwater pumping in Groundwater Management Area 12. The GWAP shall be funded by fees collected by the District on permitted amounts for the production and/or transport of groundwater, and shall be included as a separate line item in the District budget, with any funds not used in any year remaining encumbered for this purpose and that amount rolled forward into the next year’s budget. The GWAP shall be fully funded to accomplish the purpose of the program as outlined in this handbook. It is the intent of the District to cover all costs associated with this program for qualifying wells except in cases where a well owner desires a method of corrective action which significantly exceeds the costs of appropriately identified remedies.

A secondary purpose of the GWAP is to improve the POSGCD monitoring program and the POSGCD’s understanding of groundwater aquifer systems in POSGCD by increasing the number of monitoring wells in the monitoring well network and by performing localized hydrogeological studies at these monitoring locations, as well as to identify wells up to 10 years in advance which may be at risk of these adverse impacts and provide assistance in preventing the loss of water supply in those wells.

Actions supported by the GWAP to an affected well owner could entail, but is not limited to, lowering a pump in a well, modifying the construction of an existing well, drilling a new well, providing a connection to a local water supply corporation or municipal water supply, or digging a stock pond.

Administration of the Groundwater Well Assistance Program

The GWAP will be administered by the General Manager, working in coordination with the Water Resource Management Specialist and, when appropriate, the District's hydrogeologist. The primary responsibility of the Water Resource Management Specialist is to verify eligibility, oversee the investigation and evaluation of any application, and recommend appropriate action.

In emergency situations resulting in loss of water supply, District staff will endeavor to respond to requests within 48 hours and proceed with corrective actions to restore water supply as appropriate.

In instances where water supply has not been lost, the Water Resource Management Specialist will then consult with the District's hydrogeologist and recommend to the General Manager a course of action for providing assistance to a well owner as appropriate to avoid loss of water supply in the future. The process for this preventative action is more completely found in the GWAP Preventative Procedure Manual.

All necessary evaluations must be completed for a well to qualify for funding. These evaluations may include, but not be limited to, an inspection of the well, including water level measurements, and collection and considerations of water level data from nearby wells.

Because most of the pumping and the greatest drawdown in the District are anticipated to occur in the Simsboro and Carrizo Aquifers, the District expects that wells completed in the Carrizo-Wilcox formations will receive the majority of the Groundwater Well Assistance Program funding.

Eligibility Requirements for Assistance from the Groundwater Well Assistance Program

To be eligible for assistance in the GWAP, a well must be located in Milam or Burleson counties, be functional and registered with the District, and be part of the monitoring well network (see POSGCD website for instructions to join). The well also must be either a low-capacity non-exempt permitted well that produces less than 50 gallons per minute OR an exempt well used for domestic and/or livestock use as defined in the District's Rules, and may not be covered by a mitigation agreement included in a permit issued by the District or required by the State of Texas.

Groundwater Well Assistance Program Contact Information

The POSGCD Water Resource Management Specialist will be the primary point of contact for the well owners. The Water Resource Management Specialist contact information for the GWAP is listed below:

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District
Water Resource Management Specialist: Mr. Bobby Bazan
310 East Avenue C
Milano, Texas 76556

Phone: 512.455.9900
Toll-free: 800.231.8196
Fax: 512.455.9909
Email: bbazan@posgcd.org



**Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District
Well Assistance Request Form**

Date: _____

Name of Well Owner: _____

Address of Well Owner: _____

Phone Number: _____

Well Location: _____

Driller Log Available (y/n): _____

Date Drilled: _____

Well Depth: _____

Well Screen Information: _____

Aquifer: _____

DRAFT