

# POSGCD Groundwater Well Assistance Program

2017 Milam & Burleson Counties  
Groundwater Summit

Steven Wise, Vice-President  
Gary Westbrook, General Manager  
Post Oak Savannah GCD

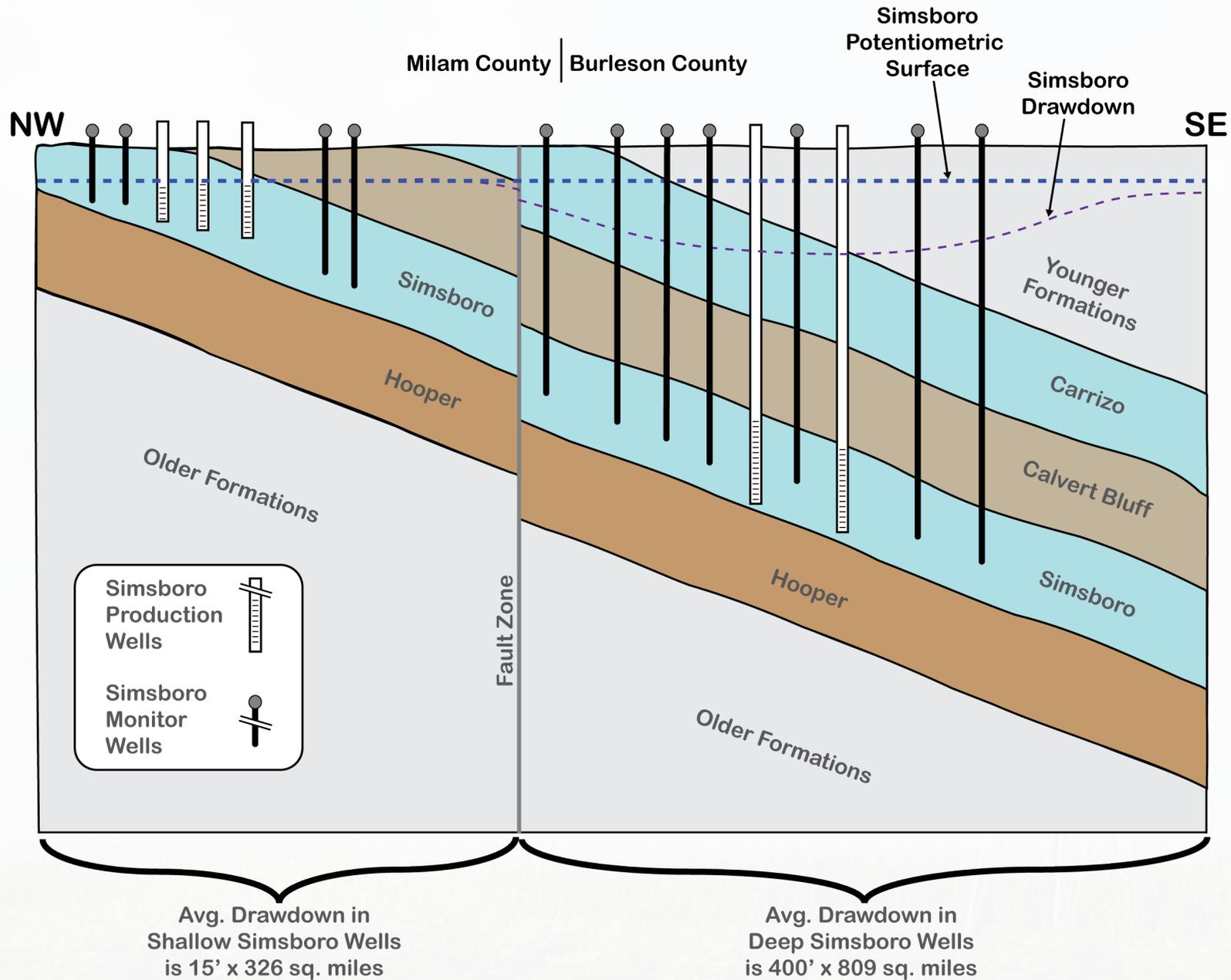


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# Schematic Cross Section Simsboro Drawdown



# GWAP – History

## POSGCD Management Plan (2006)

### 10.8 Mitigation

The District will assess the need and benefit of adopting a mitigation plan for the District on an annual basis, with the first study to be completed within one year of the adoption and certification of this plan. Upon determining the need for a mitigation plan, the District will prepare a draft plan, seek public comment, hold appropriate hearings and adopt a plan for mitigation within one year of the assessment that finds a need for a mitigation plan. The plan will be reviewed on an annual basis thereafter. Possible practices for mitigation within the District would include producers funding projects that are included in a natural or artificial recharge plan adopted under the following paragraph 11, establishing fees to fund infrastructure in areas of the District in which groundwater was but is no longer readily available, and producers contracting to provide water to such areas at or near their cost.

# GWAP – History

## POSGCD Management Plan (2012)

### 15.8 Mitigation

Within one year of adoption of this Plan, the District will review mitigation plans prepared by other agencies in Texas regarding impacts caused by groundwater pumping. Based upon this review and estimated impacts to groundwater levels caused by future pumping within and outside of the District, the District will determine whether or not to develop a mitigation plan. If appropriate, the District will develop a draft mitigation plan within three years after the adoption of this Plan and will seek public comment, hold appropriate hearings and adopt a plan. The plan will be reviewed on an annual basis thereafter.

*District Evaluation of Mitigation Plans: RRC of Texas, ALCOA, Gonzalez Co. UWCD*

# GWAP – History

## **POSGCD Board Meeting (November 2015)**

Agenda item 14: Presentation from District Landowners on Mitigation

## **POSGCD Board Meeting (January 2016)**

Agenda item 10: President Ausley asked GM Westbrook to present recommendations from the DFC Committee. GM Westbrook passed out a handout entitled, "Developing a Mitigation Plan for POSGCD," and summarized discussion of the committee, which highlighted the District's need to remind citizens management of the District's aquifers has not changed and DFCs adopted by the District will prevent the necessity of a Mitigation Program, however, the committee recommends to the Board to provide comfort and assurance to citizens of the District with these concerns by considering development of a District Mitigation Program at the next Board Meeting.

# GWAP – History

## **POSGCD Board Meeting (March 2016)**

Agenda item 7: Dr. Young presented a report on possible mitigation considerations as reviewed and discussed by the DFC Committee, and noted the committee had recommended the Board proceed with development of a mitigation plan for the District. General Manager Gary Westbrook emphasized this consideration would not change the District's management in any way with respect to current strategies which provide protection to the shallow portions of the District's aquifers...He then reminded the Board the committee had seen nothing to indicate any pressing concerns, but that the committee was ... responding to concerns expressed by a group of citizens in the District which requested this as a failsafe in the event something unforeseen should occur.

# GWAP – History

## **POSGCD Board Meeting (August 2016)**

Agenda item 6: Formally becomes the Groundwater Well Assistance Program

## **Public Discussions of GWAP 2016-2017**

### **DFC Committee:**

2016- Jan. 12, Mar. 24, May 10, Dec. 16

2017- Apr. 11, May 3, Jun. 6, Aug. 1

### **Board Meetings:**

2016- Jan. 12, Mar. 8, Aug. 9, Oct. 4

2017- Feb. 7, May 3, Jun. 6



# GWAP – History

## POSGCD Draft Management Plan (2017)

### 16.8 Groundwater Well Assistance Program

Beginning in 2018, the District will maintain a Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP). The primary purpose of the GWAP is to help restore a water supply to well owners in the District who own wells that have experienced significant adverse impacts, and where applicable to address well conditions to prevent significant adverse impacts, from groundwater level declines caused by aquifer-wide groundwater pumping in Groundwater Management Area 12. 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.

# GWAP – Purposes

- Restore a water supply to well owners in the District who own wells that have experienced significant adverse impacts, from groundwater level declines caused by aquifer-wide groundwater pumping in Groundwater Management Area 12.
- 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.

# GWAP – Purposes

- Address well conditions to prevent significant adverse impacts, from groundwater level declines caused by aquifer-wide groundwater pumping in Groundwater Management Area 12.



# GWAP – Funding

- The GWAP shall be funded by fees collected by the District on permitted amounts for the production and/or transport of groundwater.
  - The GWAP shall be included as a separate line item in the District budget.
  - Any funds not used in any year remain encumbered for this purpose with that amount rolled forward into the next year's budget.
  - The GWAP shall be fully funded to accomplish the purpose of the program.
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# GWAP – Funding

- 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.
- POSGCD 2017 GWAP Budget- \$70,000
- POSGCD 2018 GWAP Budget- \$ ?



# GWAP – Corrective Actions

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.

A faded background image of a windmill in a field. The windmill is a tall, lattice-structured tower with a circular fan-like top. It stands in a field of tall grass or crops. The image is semi-transparent and serves as a decorative background for the text.

# GWAP – Qualifications

- Well must be located in Milam or Burleson Counties
- Well must be functional and registered with the District
- Well must be part of the monitoring well network (see POSGCD website for instructions to join).
- 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
- Well may not be covered by a mitigation agreement included in a permit issued by the District or required by the State of Texas.

# GWAP – Timeline

- Draft GWAP and Manual Documents available on the District Website
  - DFC Committee currently welcomes comments
  - Additional discussion at September 5, 2017 DFC Committee and Board Meetings (open to the public)
  - October 3 – Post for 90-day Comment Period
  - January 5, 2018 – Public Hearings and Possible Adoption
  - Ongoing evaluations to continue to improve GWAP
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# GWAP- Summary

- District is committed to protect well owners in those parts of the aquifers most vulnerable to impacts from production in GMA 12
  - District is committed to improvement of the monitoring network in order to better understand and manage the groundwater resources in Milam and Burleson Counties
  - District is committed to implement the GWAP and continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the program over time
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# Questions?



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