

# Recharge

Your Groundwater Resource



Summer 2020  
Volume 12 Issue 3



**POSGCD Board of  
Directors  
includes ACP  
Sign-up  
Incentives for  
2020!**

## ACP Hits 37,000 Acres and over 500 Parcels of Land

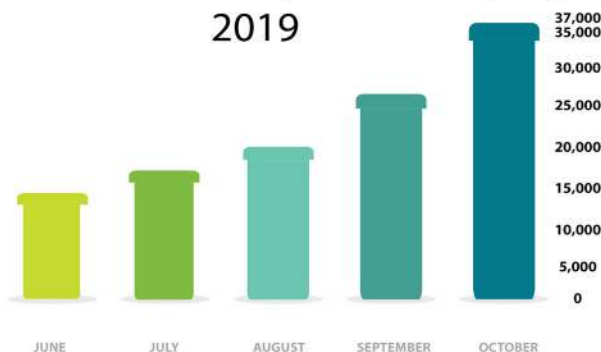
As of May 31, 2020, over 500 parcels of land encompassing over 37,000 acres are now committed to the Aquifer Conservancy Program. This program was enthusiastically supported by the landowners in Milam and Burleson Counties.

We had Town Hall meetings in Burleson and Milam Counties, programs at local business clubs, at Rockdale Library, Burleson County Wildlife Association, a booth at the Burleson County Farm Bureau meeting and the Fun Run for the Koloche Festival. We had a Road Trip in local eateries in both counties where we could meet one on one with local folks about the ACP over coffee and pastries.

To get money in the hands of participants hands sooner, the Board of Directors of Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District introduced an incentive for property owners to sign up of \$10 an acre for the first year. It was such a success that they decided to include the incentive for the year 2020 also!

The goal of the ACP is to conserve and protect the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer by providing a balance between conservation and production. The program rewarded landowners to not produce their water in permitted amounts or lease water rights for production. Landowners may continue to use water for exempt uses such as watering livestock or supplying their home. For more info - [www.posgcd.org](http://www.posgcd.org)

**Total Acres Enrolled in Aquifer Conservancy Program**



**If you haven't signed your land up  
for the ACP, now is the time!**



# District Investigating Allegations of Misuse of Vista Ridge Water

Recently the District became aware of a report out of San Antonio that a large volume of water from the Vista Ridge pipeline project was purposefully being discharged into a creek (Mud Creek) in northwest San Antonio. Reports indicate that 20 mgd was being delivered to the Agua Vista plant and that roughly half of that was being discharged. Obviously concerned, District staff immediately began investigating the situation, and all of the information gathered to date, including a link to the original report, is available on the District's website under the "News" tab. The information can be directly accessed at [www.posgcd.org/category/blog/](http://www.posgcd.org/category/blog/).

The water in question is produced and transported under permits issued by the District. These permits are issued to Vista Ridge, LLC., a company who has leased water rights from landowners in Milam and Burleson Counties, and has a contract to deliver up to 55,835 acre feet of groundwater per year to San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS) for use in the San Antonio area through a 142 mile long pipeline. One acre foot of water is 325,851 gallons. The pipeline is operated by EPCOR who is responsible for operating the pipeline to deliver the amount of water requested by SAWS.

Shortly after the District began requesting information, staff received confirmation from SAWS that the discharges of water into Mud Creek had ceased on or about June 12. District staff and general counsel will continue to gather information to present to the Board for consideration at its next meeting, and possibly subsequent meetings so that the Board of Directors of the District is able to make a proper determination as to the appropriate action to be taken.

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## How Has Covid 19 Changed POSGCD

### Following Gov. Abbot Guidelines to keep the public and staff safe

February 2020 was the last "In Person" Board Meeting for POSGCD. Due to a scheduling problem, we did not have a March Board meeting. In April and May, consistent with Governor Abbot guidelines, we had our first Virtual Board Meeting using GotoMeeting. June saw us with our first Hybrid Board Meeting, where the Board and Staff were at our office using social distancing while the public was participating on line. During April and May, again following the Governor's guidelines, the office stayed open with the staff alternating working from home and staffing the office so the public could still have access to well applications and other District business while providing an added effort of protection to both the public and staff. We have returned to the alternating program in July as the virus has increased again.

Other measures we have and will practice during this pandemic; include extra cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces, encouraged frequent hand washing and the use of hand sanitizers. Our office practices social distancing during staff meetings and other instances where we work together and engage the public. Of course, we also follow the CDC's recommendations for using a face mask and avoid close contact with public. We locked the doors and used our walk up window to provide protection and provide services.





# ANNUAL GROUNDWATER SUMMIT POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

The COVID-19 virus has thrown a wrench in many schedules this year, and POSGCD is no different. To help ensure the health of the community, the Board postponed this year's Milam and Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit, typically held in August, until at least October. At the July Board Meeting the Board will decide whether to have the Summit at that time or postpone it until next year. Watch our website for further information.

However, we will be offering our water testing campaign this year with or without the summit. Keep your eyes on the local newspapers and our e-newsletter.



## CHRIS WHITTAKER RETIRES AFTER 2 1/2 YEARS OF SERVICE

Having served as Milam County Director representing Municipal interests on the POSGCD Board, Chris Whittaker recently announced his retirement after 2 and 1/2 years of selfless service to the citizens of our District. Whittaker distinguished himself by serving on multiple committees during his time on the Board, including the Legislative Committee, the Education Committee and the all important DFC Committee.

Whittaker was recently named City Manager for the city of Angleton, TX. Chris has been the City Manager of Rockdale, TX since 2014 and serves on numerous boards and committees related to local government (Texas Municipal League, Association of Rural Communities in Texas and Texas City Management Association). He is a retired Army officer with 26 years of military experience and a resident of Texas. He previously lived in Killeen, TX with the U.S. Army at Ft. Hood. He has a bachelors degree from Virginia Military Institute, a masters from American Military University and a Certification in Public Management from Texas State University. On behalf of the staff and Directors, we say "Thank you" to Chris for his leadership, and add a sincere "God Bless you" and "good luck" in all of your future endeavors!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Plans are in the works for the following classes at our offices in Milano:

**Rainwater Harvesting 101;** Friday, Oct 23 (1pm-3pm), Friday, Feb. 5th & June 4, 2021 (see website for times.) This DIY workshop is designed to give you with the hands-on experience needed to install a rainwater collection system of your own. This course is a requirement of the POSGCD Rainwater Harvesting Rebate program and participants will receive a certificate that can be used to apply for up to \$3,000 in reimbursement of costs installing a system!

**EarthKind Landscapes;** (Coming soon – Spring 2021) Participants will learn about how to prepare and improve soil and water-conserving tips, and more, to help set you up for success in own yard and garden!

**Landscape Irrigation;** (Coming soon – Fall/early Winter 2020)

This training program explains the different ways to irrigate with rainwater, how to choose one that best fits your landscape needs, and what you'll need to set it up. You'll be ready to save time and conserve water just in time for Spring!

For more information and to register for the class go to our website, <https://posgcd.org/rainwater/> or sign up to receive our monthly E-newsletter.





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### POSGCD SOCIAL:

 @PostOakSavannahGCD     @posgcd



Let's chat!

Phone: 512.455.9900  
 Email: [admin@posgcd.org](mailto:admin@posgcd.org)

Visit our website for more information:  
[www.posgcd.org](http://www.posgcd.org)

Look for our next  
 newsletter in Spring 2020

## upcoming events

**July 14th**

July Board of Directors Meeting

Board Meetings are held at the District Office 310 East Ave C, Milano

**August 11th**

August Board of Directors Meeting

**October, 2020 - GROUNDWATER SUMMIT -**

If we have a Summit this year

**Rainwater Harvesting Oct 23 2020 - Feb 5 2021, June 4, 2021**

Check website for times and registration

**Irrigation Class late November or early December**

Exact dates to come, join our e-newsletter to be the first to know

**EarthKind late March or early April**

Exact dates to come, join our e-newsletter to be the first to know



Sidney Youngblood, President	Jay Wilder
Steven Wise, Vice President	Bob Wilson
Tommy Tietjen, Sec/Treas	Ed Savage
Lee Alford, III	Dana McClaren
Becky Goetsch	

### Staff

Gary Westbrook, General Manager  
 Elaine Gerren, Administrative Assistant  
 Bobby Bazan, Water Resource Specialist  
 Doug Box, Education Coordinator  
 Ralph Sifuentes, Field Technician

### Are we providing information you need?

The district staff want to know what information you would like to see in this newsletter. Please contact us at 512.455.9900 or [admin@posgcd.org](mailto:admin@posgcd.org) to let us know how we can better serve you.

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 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).