

# Recharge

Your Groundwater Resource



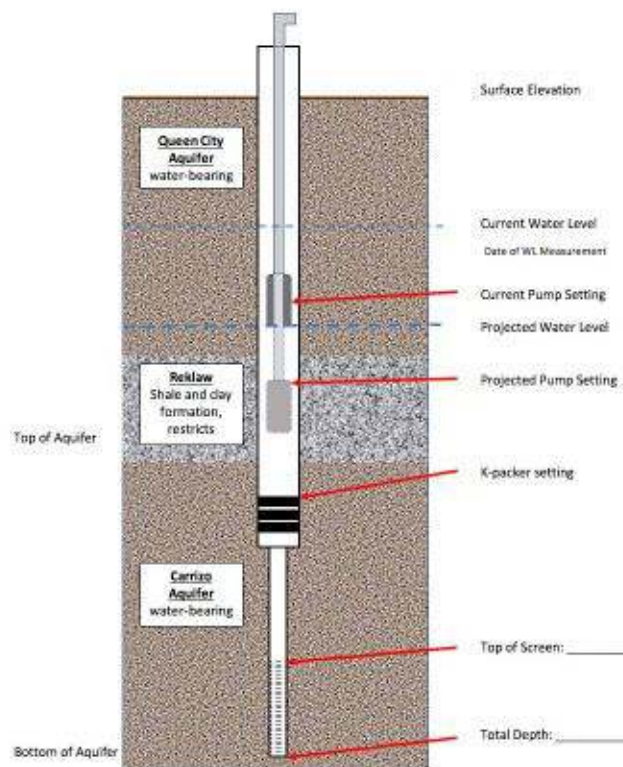
Winter 2020  
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## Update on Vista Ridge Production and Changes in Water Levels

Under our State Constitution, landowners own the groundwater under their property and have the right to either pump that water or lease/sell it to be pumped. Under current State law groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) are required to issue permits to allow that pumping to the point that the pumping achieves the Desired Future Condition established through joint planning with other GCDs which share a common aquifer.

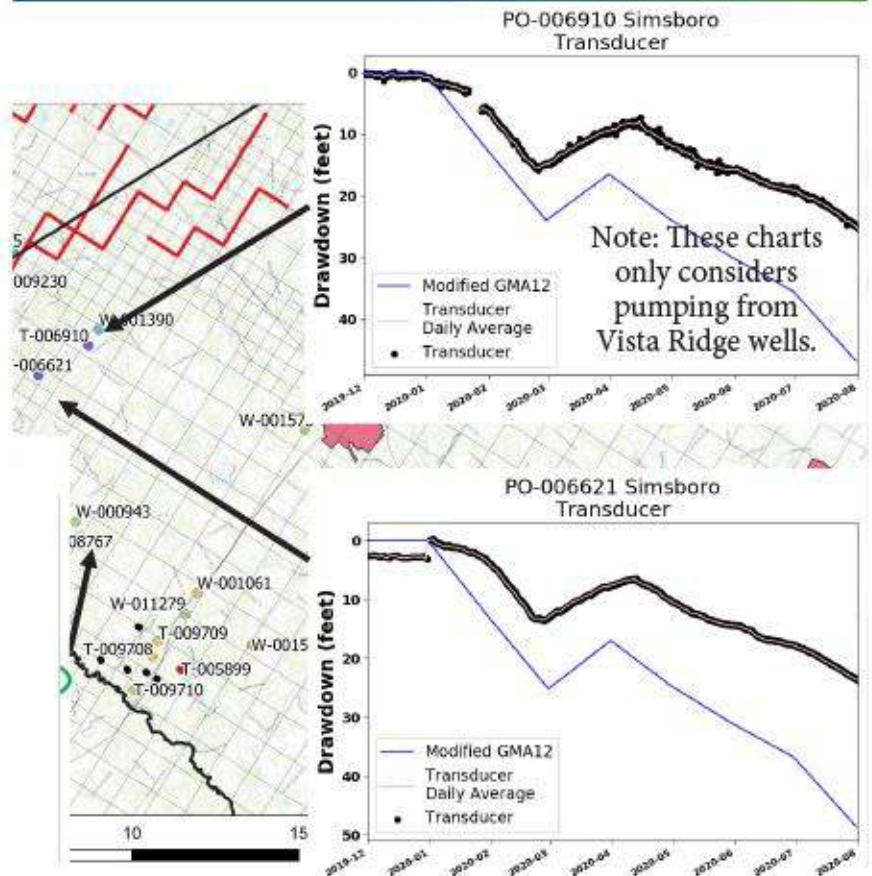
One of the effects of these laws is that while some landowners choose to pump their property, others will see some impacts to the water levels in their wells due to a reduction in the pressure in the aquifer. This pressure is what pushes water up the pipe from the aquifer in a well. This reduction of pressure can occur near the vicinity of large pumping centers such as the Vista Ridge Project in western Burleson County. Even though the aquifer itself may remain fully saturated, when this pressure reduction occurs, water levels in nearby wells drop. When that occurs, the District has a program to assist well owners in that situation called the Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP), which is discussed on page 2 of this newsletter.

continued on page 3



Here is a graphical representation of the procedure involved with the GWAP. As the water level is lowered, we will lower the pump well below the new water level which will solve the problem. This work will be accomplished by local licensed professionals such as your water well driller or pump installer. POSGCD will cover the cost.

## Simsboro (Dec 2019 to July 2020)



To watch the full program go to <https://vimeo.com/456260019>



# Water District Helping Local Well Owners with Groundwater Well Assistant Program

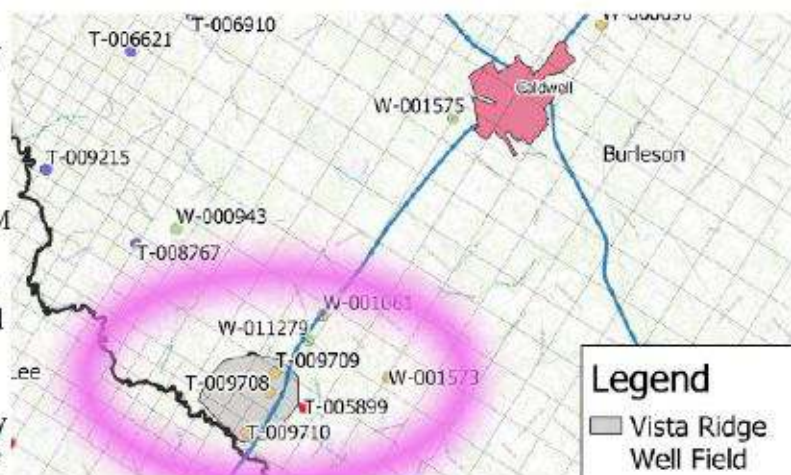
Just as anticipated, some landowners in the immediate area of the Vista Ridge well field are experiencing water level declines in their water wells. In anticipation of this, the Board of Directors of the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (POSGCD) has spent more than \$300,000 in each of the past two years with our Hydrogeologist to establish the best understanding of the aquifers in this area. The District uses the State's groundwater availability model (GAM), a tool which considers the amount of water in the aquifer and how fast that water moves due to factors such as pumping, to predict impacts to the aquifers and water wells in the District. Because of this, our GAMs predicted that a small number of wells in the immediate area would be affected by the increased pumping. In fact, in the words of our Hydrogeologist, Dr. Steve Young with Intera, in a recent report to the POSGCD Board "There have been no surprises. The aquifer responded just as we predicted."



The District has a Down-hole camera that aids in understanding exactly what is happening in the well!

In January of 2018, after more than a year of study and accepting public comment, the Board of Directors of District, adopted the Groundwater Well Assistant Program (GWAP) to assist local landowners in the District. This program was created to assist well owners whose wells experience water level declines in their wells below the pump during normal operations as a result of regional groundwater production in our area. If you would like to learn more about the GWAP, visit our website <https://posgcd.org/groundwater-well-assistance-program/> where you can download the documents.

For the most part, a simple lowering of the pump well below the new water level will solve the problem. This work will be accomplished by local licensed professionals such as your water well driller or pump installer. The area of the Vista Ridge well field is south and east of the Blackjack community, and near the intersection of Highway 21 and FM 696, west of Deanville. If you are experiencing issues with your well and you are in this area, please call our offices. We will come out and check the water levels and work with local well drillers to add a few sections of pipe and wire, and you are back in business. The District pays the entire expense through the GWAP. As you read this, the District has already addressed several water wells in this area, and because of the dedication of the POSGCD Board of Directors to the citizens of our District we continue to stay on top of the situation.



Local landowner's well is having their pump lowered, taking advantage of the Groundwater Well Assistant Program.

Recently someone asked, "Where does the money come from to fund the GWAP?" POSGCD is not funded by collection of taxes like most government entities. All of our income comes from fees collected on the production and export of groundwater. So, almost the entire amount of the monies used to fund the GWAP and assist these well owners are generated by the projects which produce the largest amount of groundwater.

Just remember, everything is happening exactly as the model predicted. In fact, the water levels in one of the aquifers has dropped a little less than what was modeled. We always want to err on the side of safety. You can see this Dr. Young's recent report on the District's website under the meetings and agendas section. See the map to see if you are in the area of the well field. (<https://vimeo.com/456260019>)

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call our office. We are here to serve the landowners of Burleson and Milam counties.



# Update on Vista Ridge Production and Changes in Water Levels continued

Our Board of Directors has kept a close eye on the effects of the Vista Ridge (VR) pumping through monitoring water levels and reviewed a report at our September Board meeting. Many of the Monitoring wells in the Vista Ridge Well Field are equipped with Transducers that allow daily or hourly measurements of the water levels. The graphs on page one show measured water level change and also what the Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) has been simulating with the VR pumping values. The GAM is owned by the state and is the tool GCDs are required to use when considering effects of production on an aquifer. The GAM considers all information and makes a prediction on water level changes over time. Each of the graphs on page 1 are a look at individual Transducers in specific aquifers. According to Dr. Steve Young from Intera, the measured draw-downs are about the same or less than was simulated by the GAM. There are no surprises, the aquifers are reacting just as or better than predicted. There were no distinguishable drawdown impacts in Sparta or Queen City attributed to Vista Ridge Production.

The GAM simulated draw-downs similar in magnitude to the measured values in Carrizo Aquifer and overestimated to the measured values in Simsboro Aquifer. We have noticed some drawdowns on wells close to the well field in the Carrizo Aquifer. We anticipated this would happen and the District is working with local landowners with the Groundwater Well Assistance Program (see story on page 2) to assist with these. It should also be noted that water level declines are expected to level off during the next two years.

To listen to the complete presentation from our board meeting go to: <https://vimeo.com/456260019>



## WARD RODDAM NEW DIRECTOR

Ward Roddam has lived in Milam County for the majority of his life. Growing up in Minerva, Texas, Ward and his wife of 32 years, Kathryne now live in Rockdale, Texas, where they raised their three daughters, Katie, Kassie and Kourtney. Ward graduated from Rockdale High School in 1982. After attending Sam Houston State University, Ward graduated with an Associates Degree in Behavioral Science from Bastyr University. Ward worked 20 years for Alcoa Rockdale Operations in various roles as an hourly employee and in management positions. Following the close of Alcoa Rockdale Operations, Ward has spent the last 12 years as a Health and Safety Manager in both the Oil and Gas Industry and the Industrial Services Industry. Ward has been an active member of the Rockdale Volunteer Fire Department since June of 1989 and has served as Fire Chief for the City of Rockdale for the past 12 years. Ward considers himself a dedicated public servant having also served on the Rockdale Volunteer EMS, as a director on the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce, and Chairperson of the RISD New Schools Development Committee.



## RALPH SIFUENTES RETIRES AS FIELD TECHNICIAN

Ralph Sifuentes retired on October 31, 2020. Ralph joined POSGCD on August 1, 2017 as Field Technician. Mr. Sifuentes came to POSGCD with over 27 years of experience in drilling and groundwater, working for Alcoa, then Luminant as a driller and drilling supervisor. As a field technician for POSGCD, Sifuentes assisted in monitoring wells, checking water levels and water quality, troubleshooting, performing well inspections and finding new monitor wells. With his extensive drilling background and knowledge about groundwater and wells, Sifuentes has been valuable addition to the POSGCD staff and we are sorry to see him leave. Ralph wants to spend more time with family and grandkids!



## CRAIG ANDREWS - JOINS THE STAFF

Craig Andrews, is the newest member of the POSGCD staff. As Field Technician he is working with Bobby Bazan as we increase the monitoring and check flow rates of non-exempt wells in the district. Craig was born and raised in Georgetown, TX area. Craig spent a good portion of his formative years raising cattle, goats and sheep which he continues to this date. He began working in groundwater in 2000 as a field tech doing groundwater monitoring, drilling projects and well investigations for RW Harden and Assoc in Austin. He began working with Post Oak Savannah GCD at the start of 2020. Welcome to the team, Craig!



## AQUIFER CONSERVANCY PROGRAM UPDATE NUMBERS THRU 2020

After another successful campaign, the ACP now has more than 650 properties including more than 45,000 acres enrolled! Thank you!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Rainwater Harvesting 101** - Feb 5, 2021 - This DIY workshop is designed to give you with the hands-on experience needed to install a rainwater collection system of your own. Check out POSGCD Rainwater Harvesting Rebate program where you can 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:** 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.





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- Ward Roddam - New Director

### 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

#### November Board Meeting 10th

November Board of Directors Meeting. Currently Board Meetings are held virtually

#### No Board Meeting in December

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from the Board and Staff of  
Post Oak Savannah Groundwater  
Conservation District**

**Rainwater Harvest Class - Feb 5** This DIY workshop is designed to give you with the hands-on experience needed to install a rainwater collection system of your own.



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

#### Staff

Gary Westbrook, General Manager  
Elaine Gerren, Administrative Assistant  
Bobby Bazan, Water Resource Specialist  
Doug Box, Education Coordinator  
Craig Andrews, 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).