

Recharge

Your Groundwater Resource



Spring 2021
Volume 13 Issue 1

DISTRICT ADDRESSES DECLINING WATER LEVELS

In local gatherings across our District, conversations between family, friends, and neighbors are being had about the weather, politics, sports, and local gossip. These days those conversations may include stories about someone's water well going dry or a pump burning up. The chatter certainly stirs up emotions and folks begin to wonder, "Is this going to happen to me?", "Am I next?"

Not that you didn't trust your neighbors or family, but the chatter is true and some wells in Burleson county have experienced issues with their water well due to declining water levels in the Carrizo and Simsboro aquifers. Since October 2020, Post Oak Savannah GCD has responded to a fair number of calls from well owners reporting issues with their water well. In most cases, after measuring, it was found that water levels were at or below where the pump was set in the well. At that point a decision needs to be made on how to get water flowing again. That is not meant to minimize the why and how we got to this point.

Board members and staff at POSGCD are well aware of the concerns that citizens have about the Vista Ridge project, and some landowners are even frustrated that permits were issued in the first place. However, under state law, a landowner owns the water under their land as real property, which allows them to produce it, sell it, lease it, or simply leave it in place if they so choose. The role of the District, as mandated by law, is to strike a balance between conservation of the aquifers and allowing a landowner's right to use or assign the use of their groundwater under their property. Groundwater districts issue permits for the purpose of regulating that use.

With the permits long issued and the Vista Ridge project preparing to go online, all the science and hydrology principles suggested that we would see these near immediate changes. In anticipation of the impacts, the Board created and adopted the Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP) in January 2018. This program was designed for two reasons. First, to help alleviate the financial burden on well owners of having to lower a pump or possibly drill a new well. Second, to improve the understanding of the aquifers being managed by enrolling impacted wells in the District's Monitoring Network. In exchange for allowing POSGCD to measure water levels and gather data at your water well, the District will cover 100% of the costs associated with having to set or replace a pump lower, or in the event that it is necessary, drill a new water well or connect a landowner to a local public water supply.

	2020	2021 as of March 31, 2021
Wells Inspected	47	16
Wells Serviced	24	10
Total POSGCD Spent	\$76,161.00	\$84,424.00
Total Reimbursed to POSGCD*	\$17,653.00	\$49,736.00

* Reimbursed by From Vista Ridge & I-130 Projects

Total Expense-to-Date including Science and Well Service under GWAP is \$234,766.00

Another by-product of the GWAP is an annual report known as the GWAP Annual Needs Assessment (GANA). This report takes all the data that the District collects, such as well reports, water level measurements, annual production, etc., and predicts which wells are likely to be impacted. This allows the District to be proactive and work with well owners to fix foreseen issues before any problems arise. Now, there are some limitations with this report. Certain information about a well is needed to make a valid assessment. First and foremost, we need to have the correct location and depth for a water well. This is crucial because it allows us to know which aquifer your well is drilled into. Secondly, we would like to know how deep the pump is set in the well. Without this information too many assumptions would be made and lead to unreliable results. Due to this lack of information some wells were not able to be identified before issues were experienced.

Every month POSGCD publishes a summary report on the number of wells serviced (see table above), which can be found on our website. All but one well serviced to date have been Carrizo wells ranging from 300 feet to 800 feet deep in western Burleson county, with the lone exception being a deep Simsboro well. The District is aware of a number of Carrizo wells in the same area that still need to be addressed. The District staff has started contacting, or are attempting to contact those landowners.

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save the date

**Mark Your Calendars for the
7th Annual Groundwater Summit
Thursday August 12, 2021**

Free admission to the Groundwater Summit

You don't want to miss the 2021 Summit. Everyone is welcome to join us for a day of workshops, knowledgeable and informative speakers, great company and food. Lunch and snacks are provided.

Free Water Testing for local well owners, a \$65 Value

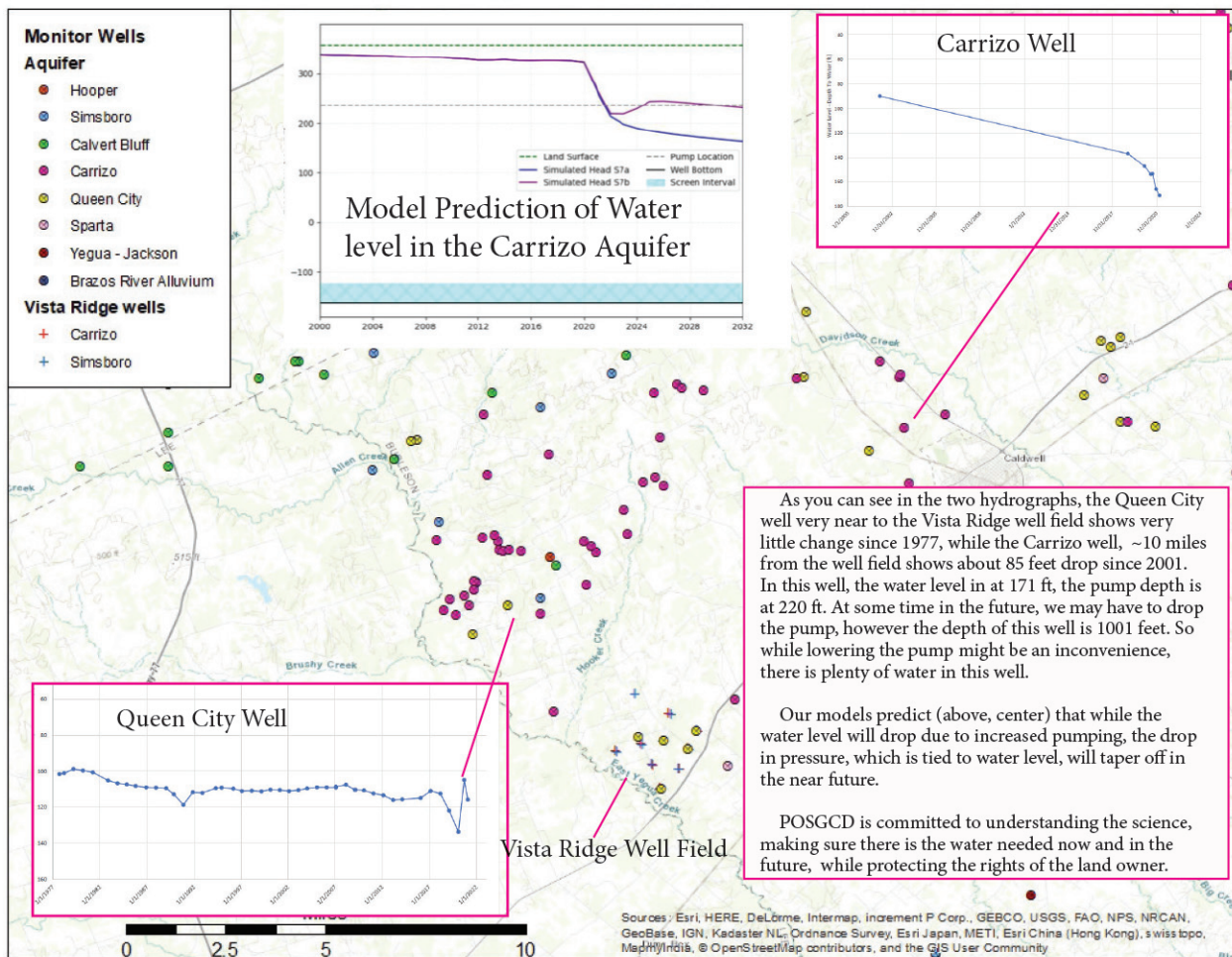
DISTRICT DEVELOPS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT TO DEAL WITH FUTURE CHALLENGES

As Texas continues to grow in population, the demands for water around our state will continue to increase, and this includes an increased demand for groundwater. Under Texas law the landowner owns the water under their land as real property and they are able to use it, or sell or lease the rights to their water, or simply leave it in place. As required by state law, the mission of groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) in Texas is to find a balance between conservation of the aquifers and allowing a landowner's right to use or assign the use of their property in groundwater. GCDs accomplish this balance by the issuance of permits, registration of wells, monitoring the water levels and conditions of the aquifers, and enforcing the rules of the GCD. To encourage conservation and satisfy these requirements, POSGCD continues to develop Rules, management strategies, and programs, such as the Aquifer Conservancy Program (ACP).

There are many factors which affect how our Board manages the groundwater resources in our District. Some of these factors are: Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, District Rules, and Management Plan; court decisions on property rights and legislative actions which determine the laws which guide the Board's decisions; changes in patterns and amounts of groundwater produced both inside and outside of our District; improvements in science and information used to evaluate conditions of the aquifers; Joint Planning in the Groundwater Management Area process; and State Water Planning process through Regional Water Planning Groups. With the complexities of all these factors, the only thing for sure in the management of groundwater is there will always be change.

To account for changes in these factors which affect our District and its management of groundwater resources, our Board is developing a new tool called the Management Strategies Report (MSR). This report will be updated annually and will continually consider the many factors which affect us and assist our directors in making sound decisions which are based on the best available science and current information in management of our groundwater resources. The first discussion of the MSR occurred at the Board of Directors meeting on April 13, 2021. The video of that presentation and discussion can be viewed on the District's website at: <https://vimeo.com/536835816>

Stay tuned for more information on this revolutionary way of dealing with the future of groundwater in our District.



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If you are still reading, you are probably asking yourself, "wait, do I have a well between 300 and 800 feet deep?" That may be the case, but not all wells are created equal. In Borden county alone there are 7 different aquifers that a well can be drilled into, with the majority of private wells being drilled into the Queen City, Sparta, and/or Yegua-Jackson aquifers. It all depends on where in the county your well is located. Each of those aquifers are isolated between thick layers of clay and shale that minimize the amount of water that moves between them. Due to this isolation, production in the Carrizo and Simsboro by the Vista Ridge project has yet, and is not expected, to have impacts on wells in these other formations. Even so, POSGCD continues to measure production and water levels in all aquifers, and if any trends change well owners will be notified and if necessary, the GWAP will be available to alleviate any financial stress. For more information about the GWAP program visit our website at www.posgcd.org/groundwater-well-assistance/

If you experience loss of service, or are concerned you might experience loss of service, contact the POSGCD staff at bbazan@posgcd.org

BOARD REACHES RESOLUTION AGREEMENT WITH VISTA RIDGE IN DISPUTE OVER DISCHARGE OF WATER

After months of investigation and consideration into the events surrounding the discharge of water at the Agua Vista site and Bitters pump station and the District's allegations that such discharge violated the Rules of the District and the Texas Water Code, the POSGCD Board executed a resolution agreement with Vista Ridge at its April 13, 2021 meeting. Under the agreement a total of \$106,000 has been paid to the District and will be used to fund activities under the Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP). Importantly, the agreement also includes monthly submissions of information which will prove valuable to all parties involved to further efforts toward conservation of groundwater. All information considered and what led to this settlement are available on the District's website at <https://posgcd.org/vista-ridge-discharge/>

DISTRICT AWARDS 2021 GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION GRANTS

At the April 13, 2021 Board meeting the following Grants were awarded for conservation of groundwater. This brings the total awarded for these grants to \$14.8 Million since 2006. Thank you to all of our local water utilities who work so hard to make the most efficient use of groundwater!

Local Water Utility Name	Amount Requested	Use of Funds
Milano WSC	\$ 10,750.00	Replace obsolete water meters
Milano WSC	\$ 40,000.00	Replace obsolete water lines
Southwest Milam WSC	\$198,854.20	Replace obsolete water lines
City of Rockdale	\$200,000.00	Replace obsolete piping in plant
Totals	\$449,604.20	



AQUIFER CONSERVANCY PROGRAM (ACP) \$10/ACRE INCENTIVE FOR 2021

The POSGCD Board has continued the incentive for enrollment of new properties in the popular ACP for one more year. The incentive pays landowners \$10/Acre for enrollment in addition to regular annual payments. The period for landowners to enroll their property in the ACP for this year has been set for June 1- August 31, 2021. Terms of the ACP remain the same with landowners being able to receive compensation for committing their property into this innovative conservancy.

See the POSGCD website for details at www.posgcd.org/aquifer-conservancy-program/

JORDAN ALDRIDGE JOINS POSGCD AS FIELD TECHNICIAN CONTRACTOR



On January 4, 2021, Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District welcomed Jordan Aldridge as a Field Technician Contractor. Ms. Aldridge has a bachelor's degree in geology from Texas Christian University and a master's degree in environmental management from St. Edward's University.

Jordan has over five years of experience conducting fieldwork, data review, technical support as well as compliance review. She worked as a Geologist for Hicks & Company of Austin, TX where she was involved in a variety of biological studies, including conducting general biological surveys, evaluations and assessments in support of Endangered Species Act (ESA), consultation and Clean Water Act (CWA) permitting requirements and conducting baseline studies. Prior to her experience as a Geologist, she worked as a Hydrologic Technician for the Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey in Fort Worth TX and a Reserve Analyst and Mineral Appraiser with the Capitol Appraisal Group Inc., Austin, TX. Her first job after graduation was a Field Service Operator with Schlumberger Drilling and Measurements in Houston, TX. Jordan will be a valuable addition to the efforts of POSGCD, and we are excited to have her aboard.

You can contact Jordan Aldridge at jaldridge@posgcd.org or (512) 455-9900.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Rainwater Harvesting 101; May 13 2021. 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! www.posgcd.org/rainwater/

Edible Garden and Landscape Class - May 22 10am How to incorporate edible foods in your landscape.

www.posgcd.org/rainwater/

Landscape Irrigation; NEW workshop happening on May 27th! Learn how to create a low-maintenance, water-conserving irrigation plan using harvested rainwater or regular water supplies!

www.posgcd.org/rainwater/

NEW PROGRAM - ASK ME ANYTHING

"Ask Me Anything" is an open session with a member of our Staff, Board Member or other water-related specialists that's meant to be a casual and easy way to share or ask questions openly. Questions can be as simple as how to use our website, how to apply for a Rainwater Harvesting grant, or something more specific about your well or where your water comes from – we're here for it! Like us on Facebook for schedule and more information or go to www.posgcd.org/education/



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- Groundwater Well Assistant Update
- Upcoming classes Rainwater Harvesting, and Irrigation,.
- Jordan Aldridge - New Contractor
- Groundwater Summit 8,12, 2021

Sign Up For
Aquifer
Conservancy
Program

June 1 - Aug 31

POSGCD SOCIAL:



@posgcd



@PostOakSavannahGCD



Let's chat!

Phone: 512.455.9900

Email: admin@posgcd.org

Visit our website for more information:

www.posgcd.org

Look for our next
newsletter in Summer 2021

upcoming events

May Board Meeting 11th 5:30

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

www.posgcd.org/public-notice/

Rainwater Harvesting Class - May 13 This DIY workshop is designed to provide you with the experience needed to install a rainwater collection system of your own. www.posgcd.org/rainwater/

Edible Garden and Landscape Class - May 22 10am How to incorporate edible foods in your landscape. www.posgcd.org/rainwater/

Landscape Irrigation Class - May 27 Learn how to create a low-maintenance, water-conserving irrigation. www.posgcd.org/rainwater/

**August 12th Thursday - Milam and Burleson Counties
Groundwater Summit**

**Groundwater Summit
Post Oak Savannah Groundwater
Conservation District**



Sidney Youngblood, President

Steven Wise, Vice President

Tommy Tietjen, Sec/Treas

Lee Alford, III

Becky Goetsch

Jay Wilder

Bob Wilson

Ed Savage

Dana McClaren

Ward Roddam

Staff

Gary Westbrook, General Manager

Elaine Gerren, Administrative Assistant

Bobby Bazan, Water Resource Specialist

Doug Box, Education Coordinator

Craig Andrews, Field Technician

Jordan Aldridge, Field Technician Contractor

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 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



The Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (POSGCD) mission is to adopt and enforce Rules consistent with State law and based on best available science, which provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater, while supporting the ownership of groundwater and the owner's right to assign or produce that property.