

Recharge

Your Groundwater Resource



Winter 2021
Volume 11 Issue 4

Monitoring Well Measurement Update



As the final winter measurements of the year are in the log books, the Monitoring Crew at Post Oak Savannah GCD is wrapping up the huge task of measuring the over 350 monitor wells in the District. About 20% of our monitor wells have an automatic system in place to provide regular automated measurements. The majority of the wells are measured by hand, by our professionally trained field technicians.

In our District, the majority of the water used in the District is for Municipal and Irrigation use. The majority of the wells, by count, are domestic wells, which we call Exempt wells. Exempt wells, according to Texas Water Code, Chapter 36.117 (State Law), must be incapable of producing 25,000 gallons per day (which means they can produce no more than 17.36 gallons per minute). Additionally, the water must be used for domestic use or the watering of livestock.

To give you an overall view of our monitoring well system

- 350 + monitor wells, increased from 292 in 2020, covering 8 aquifers in the District - ????
- 36 monitor wells equipped with transducers to record continuous hourly measurements
- 30 monitor wells, equipped with acoustic devices providing continuous reporting
- 8 monitor wells drilled by the District in strategically located places and aquifers
- All water level monitoring information available to the public through access of the District's website

2022 Monitoring schedule will start again late January. If you have one of our monitoring wells, we thank you! We should be calling you sometime soon to set up an appointment. If you have a well and are not in our monitoring network yet, just give us a call to get started.

Alcoa Sells Former Rockdale Industrial Site to SLR

According to Business Wire, “Alcoa Corporation (NYSE: AA) announced October 31, 2021 it has completed the sale of land and industrial assets in the state of Texas in a transaction valued at \$240 million.

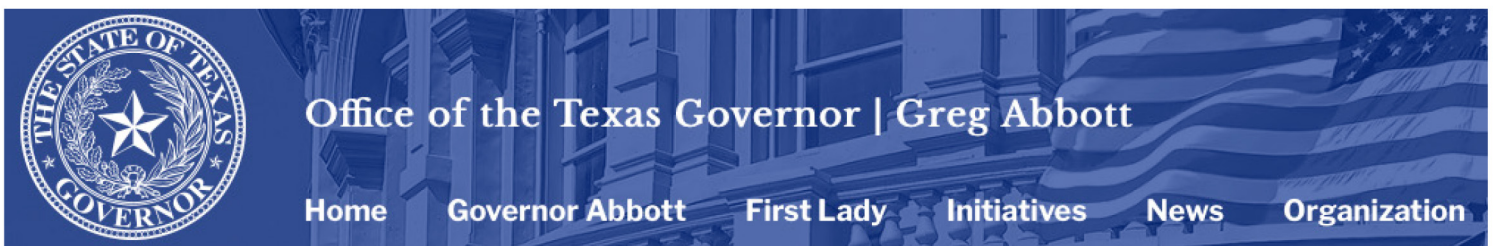
The sale included approximately 31,000 acres in Milam and Lee Counties and was marketed as the Sandow Lakes Ranch, which includes the site of the former Rockdale aluminum smelter. The Rockdale smelter was fully curtailed in 2008 and was permanently closed in 2017.

The transaction, which was completed on Friday, October 29, 2021, predominately included highly improved pasture and agricultural property and industrial assets. The buyer is SLR Property I, LP, an affiliate of a private, Texas-based real estate investment entity.”

Earlier this year, Alcoa followed the process according to the POSGCD Rules to amend its existing permits to allow water to be transported from the District. Alcoa cited industrial needs in Williamson County as the end user of the water. Post Oak Savannah GCD’s 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.

Gov Abbott announced a new \$17 billion manufacturing plant in Taylor. According to the article, “The project will create over 2,000 high-tech jobs, thousands of indirect jobs, and a minimum of 6,500 construction jobs. Construction will begin in early 2022 with a target of production starting in the second half of 2024. The \$17 billion in capital investments includes buildings, property improvements, machinery, and equipment.” For more information or to read the article, go to <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-announces-new-17-billion-samsung-manufacturing-facility-in-taylor>

According to an article by David McCabe in the New York Times on Nov. 23, 2021, Semiconductor plants require abundant water and reliable power. For more information or to read the article, go to <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/23/technology/samsung-chip-plant-texas.html>



VISTA Ridge Update

On April 13, 2021, Vista Ridge, Blue Water Systems, and the District, agreed to and signed a Resolution which requires EPCOR to report to the District on a monthly basis detailed information, including the total amounts of water delivered to Vista Ridge. EPCOR is the company responsible for the operation of the Vista Ridge well field and pipeline. The District shall be provided a copy of Vista Ridge project’s Emergency Response Plan that covers spill prevention and mitigation protocols. The District also will receive a detailed report concerning the beneficial use of the amounts of water transmitted and received, discharged under the parameters of TCEQ’s Hydrostatic Test General Permit No. TXG670000 or its individual equivalent, are unaccounted for or which such amounts are not delivered to the designated receivers. Plus, the District shall be provided TWDB Annual Water Use Survey, quarterly inspection reports and/or any additional reports filed with state agencies by SAWS or EPCOR. For more information and to follow the monthly updates, go to our website at <https://posgcd.org/vista-ridge-dashboard/>

ACP Update

The Aquifer Conservancy Program (ACP) continues to be a popular program with the landowners of Burleson and Milam Counties. The POSGCD Board initiated the program to create a legacy of stewardship for landowners. The program enables landowners in the District to commit their groundwater resources into a long-term conservation program. POSGCD is empowered by the State of Texas to preserve, conserve, and protect groundwater resources in Burleson and Milam Counties. This ground-breaking conservation program will allow most land owners in the two counties to partner with the District in it's mission to conserve the aquifers in this area.

Now over 630 parcels of property, including over 47,000 acres covering both Milam and Burleson Counties, are enrolled.

-More than 75% of the acreage enrolled is committed for 20 years
For more information and to enroll your property go to www.posgcd.org/ACP



GWAP Requests Down

On January 9, 2018, the Board of Directors adopted the POSGCD Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP). This program was created to assist well owners whose wells are projected to experience water level declines in their wells below the pump during normal operations as a result of regional groundwater production.

We knew that as the pumping increased in the Vista Ridge project, the wells closest to the well fields would see some drawdown. In the latter part of 2020, POSGCD serviced 24 wells for landowners in our District to either prevent loss of service or to restore service in affected wells. In 2021, the GWAP program assisted 36 wells. Just as the groundwater model predicted, the number of wells impacted has tapered off (see diagram). As the program was designed, the Distract Staff worked with the landowners to assign a qualified professional to address the issues with corrective actions and POSGCD pays the full expense. This program is fully funded from fees collected from commercial producers and exporters of water from our District.

We started seeing wells that needed servicing in mid-October 2020. By the end of 2020, the District had assisted 24 landowners. In January 2021, we assisted 9 landowners, Feb, May and June, the number had dropped 5 - 6 per month. The last several months, the number has dropped to one or two a month.

The process to participate in the GWAP is simple and easy! If you experience loss of service, or are concerned you might experience loss of service, contact the POSGCD staff at bbazan@posgcd.org or 512-455-9900



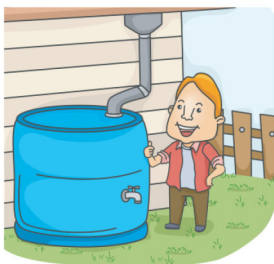
Jeff Fisher - New Field Technician

Jeff Fisher has joined POSGCD as our newest Field Tech joining Craig Andrews and Bobby Bazan, our Water Resource Management Specialist as a part of our monitoring team. Jeff is a Rockdale native who attended Rockdale High School. Jeff graduated Temple Junior College with an associates degree in Criminal Justice. He also studied Aviation Science and received his Pilot Ratings in 1991. He completed his BS Degree in Criminal Justice/Police Science with a minor in Psychology at Sam Houston State University. Jeff worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a Correctional Officer, and an Institutional Parole Officer from 1992-1997. Jeff served the public as a state trooper from 1997-2007. Jeff was promoted from Trooper to Pilot Investigator from 2007 - 2019. He served as an Air Evac Life Team Pilot responsible for air medical transportation of infirmed individuals as well as trauma victims from 2019-2020. Just recently he worked with Central Texas Auto Supply before joining Post Oak Savannah GCD.



Courtney Gentry - New Administrative Assistant

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District welcomed Courtney Gentry as our Administrative Assistant. Mrs. Gentry is a Rockdale native and resides there with her husband J. D. Courtney is the daughter of Jeff and Monique Gebhart of Rockdale. Courtney attended Austin Community College and earned a Phlebotomy Certification. Courtney has a work history of customer service and understanding the requirements of regulation as her previous jobs included working at the Blood and Tissue Center in Austin and the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in Bryan/College Station, as well as Fresenius Dialysis in Bryan, TX as a Patient Care Technician where she worked directly with patients. Her most recent job was with Boon-Chapman in Austin as a Senior Specialist where she administered COBRA for employer groups. As an Administrative Assistant for POSGCD, Courtney will work with Elaine Gerren who has assumed the position of POSGCD Office Manager. Courtney will be the prime contact with the public at the office and on the phone.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

Rainwater Harvesting , Friday Jan 28, 2022 (1-4pm)

Irrigation for Rainwater Harvesters: Friday, Mar. 4 (1-4pm)

EarthKind class (topic TBD): Apr. 15, (1PM - 4PM)

Rainwater Harvesting April (Date and time TBA)

Program updates, information, and registration links can be found by visiting: posgcd.org/rainwater

Contact Jaclyn Robertson with questions, (512) 409-7028 and jrobertson@posgcd.org.

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- Alcoa Sells Property
- Vista Ridges Monthly Updates
- ACP Update
- GWAP Requests Down
- POSGCD adds two new staff members

POSGCD SOCIAL:

@PostOakSavannahGCD @posgcd



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

upcoming events

- January 28th 2022 1-4pm**
Rainwater Harvesting Class
- January 11th 2022**
POSGCD Board Meeting
- February 8th 2022**
POSGCD Board Meeting
- March 4th 1-4pm**
Irrigation for Rainwater Harvesting
- March 8th 2022**
POSGCD Board meeting
- April 15th 1-4pm**
EarthKind Class (topic TBD)
- April 2022**
Rainwater Harvesting (date/time TBA)

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



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

Staff

- Gary Westbrook, General Manager
Elaine Gerren, Office Manager
Bobby Bazan, Water Resource Specialist
Doug Box, Education Coordinator
Craig Andrews, Field Technician
Jeff Fisher, Field Technician
Courtney Gentry, Administrative Assistant

Are we providing information you need?

The district staff wants 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.



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).