

Recharge

Your Groundwater Resource



Winter 2022
Volume 12 Issue 3

WINTERIZE YOUR PRIVATE WELL

Winterizing a domestic water well means different things in different states. Private well owners in Fairbanks, Alaska, will have pitless adapter well completions with the water outlet pipe set at a depth of nine feet or greater to protect it from freezing. Our wells have above ground completions with exposed pipe coming out of the top of well seals, mostly without insulation around that plumbing. When extreme cold weather comes to the Southern states, it can impact the operation of private water systems. It can cause water well control systems and booster pumps to freeze, bursting pipes and other water containment devices. Another weak zone inherent in southern states is the above ground use of PVC plumbing components. These are especially vulnerable to hard freezes. Here are some tips for well owners in mostly southern states to prepare their water well systems for extreme cold weather events.



1. Make sure all vital above ground components are protected with some form of insulating material. The well head and casing may not need to be insulated but all the plumbing that comes from the well to either storage or bladder tanks should be wrapped with material and/or electrical heat generating strips.

2. Especially vulnerable are the smaller diameter pipe sizes like the one that leads from the manifold to the pressure switch. Pressure gauges are very vulnerable to freezing and can be destroyed in just one night of below freezing temperatures.

3. Large water storage tanks and even captive air bladder tanks themselves may not need to be insulated but the plumbing entering and exiting them must be. The smaller the diameter of the pipe and the lower to the ground, the more likely it is to freeze.

4. Private water systems associated with storage tanks often have booster pumps drawing from them feeding to bladder tanks. These booster pumps are very susceptible to breakage if they hard freeze. Ice expands upon freezing and breaks booster pump housings.

5. Any exposed PVC plumbing is also very vulnerable to breakage from even the slightest freezing temperature. PVC may be plastic at elevated temperatures but it is quite brittle at

cold temperatures.

6. Homeowners are always encouraged to visually inspect their private water system on a regular basis. They are not intended to be left alone in the way that hot water heaters are typically ignored (until they fail).

7. Visual inspections should include inclement weather protection for vital water system components. In the desert southwest, we must protect our systems more from heat and direct sunlight with only occasional protection from deep freezes.

8. Good thermal insulation can protect from both extremes.

9. The preferred thermal protection from both heat and cold is to wrap all vital plumbing components with insulating foam split tubing and then wrap the foam with aluminum tape that protects the vulnerable foam from rodents and ultraviolet destruction.

10. All water carrying components need insulation protection from hard freezes, however most electrical components do not. It is a BMP (Best Management Practice) to cover electrical control components with foam insulation or draping them with insulating blankets.

11. Some well owners who have let their freeze protection go to the last night before the hard freeze warning comes of the news will go out and throw a number of blankets, towels or tarps over the well, bladder tank and other components to protect it for a few nights. If they don't remove these coverings shortly after the freeze warning is over these coverings become attractive homes for rodents, insects and reptiles. It's quite a surprise when these coverings are removed in the late spring finding mice, kangaroo rats, scorpions, toads and even rattlesnakes hiding under them



About the Author

Gary Hix is a Registered Professional Geologist in Arizona, specializing in hydrogeology. He was the 2019 William A. McElhiney Distinguished Lecturer for The Groundwater Foundation. He is a former licensed water well drilling contractor and remains actively involved in the National Ground Water Association and Arizona Water Well Association.

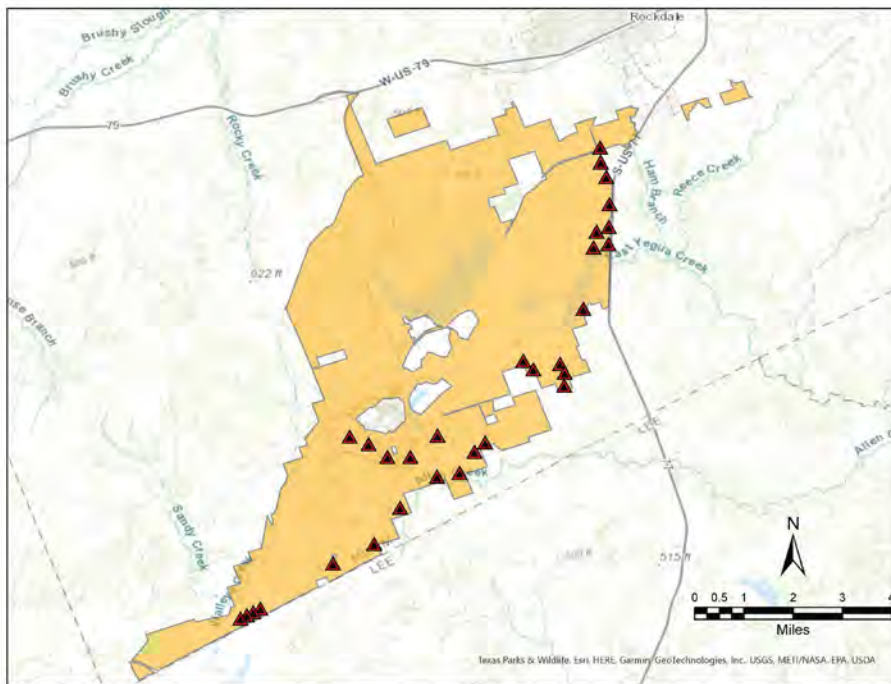
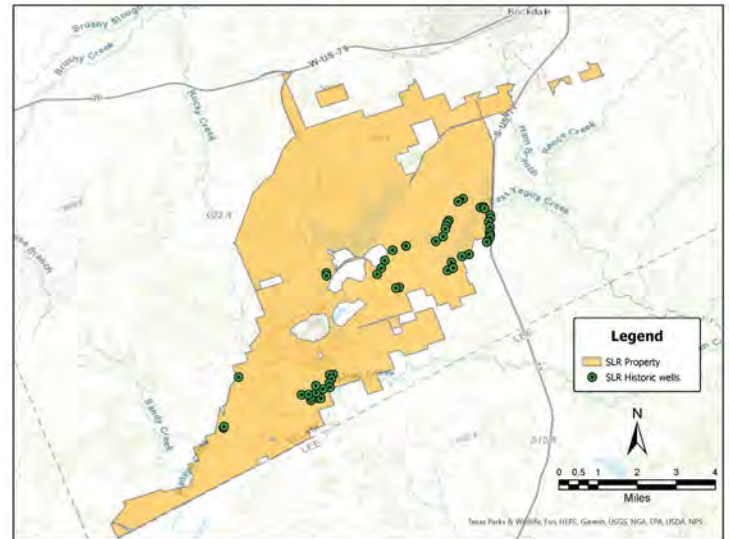
To learn more about Gary's work, go to In2Wells.com. His eBooks, "Domestic Water Wells in Arizona: A Guide for Realtors and Mortgage Lenders" and "Shared Water Wells in Arizona," are available on Amazon.



SLR Permit Requests Overview

The Board of Directors will consider two new permit requests at Public Hearings scheduled for January 10, 2023. The two applications were submitted on October 17, 2022, by Sandow Lakes Ranch (SLR), the successor to Alcoa's groundwater rights and permits.

The first application is for a new 15,000 af/yr Simsboro Operating Permit to be used in conjunction with SLR's 15,000 af/yr Simsboro Historic Use Permit #0330 (HUP 0330), that has a term until 2038. Production from both permits will not exceed 15,000 af/yr. SLR requests that upon issuance of the new 15,000 af/yr Operating Permit, the entire 15,000 af/yr will be assigned to HUP 0330 and 0 af/yr per year will be assigned to the new Operating Permit. From time to time thereafter, SLR will notify the District of the portion of the 15,000 af/yr assigned to the new Operating Permit and noting the remaining portion of the 15,000 af/yr that will remain assigned to HUP 0330. The amount assigned. Upon the term ceasing for HUP 0330 may never be increased above the last amount assigned. If HUP 0330 is ever terminated for any reason, the remaining amount assigned to HUP 0330 at that time would be assigned to the new Operating Permit, resulting in the full 15,000 af/yr being assigned to the new Operating Permit.



The second application requests a Drilling and Operating permit capable of producing 9,000 ac/ft out of the Simsboro and Hooper aquifers. The total pumping is not to exceed 9,000 ac/ft with a maximum of 4,500 ac/ft out of the Hooper. The application also requests the ability to drill 60 new wells at 30 defined well sites, following all rules of the District in doing so (found in District Rule 4.1).

Any person interested in contesting the case as an affected party must provide written notice to the General Manager and SLR no later than five (5) business days before the hearing date. The last day to provide comment, apply for affected person status, or contest the applications is January 3, 2023. To determine if you are an affected party, please refer to the definition of "affected person" in District Rules.



RECEIVED
POST OAK SAVANNAH GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
APPROVED: March 8, 2024
ADOPTED and REAPPROVED: June 8, 2024
as amended through May 18, 2022

More information about Public Hearings can be found in the following District Rules:

<https://posgcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Rules.Amended.05102022.pdf>

Rule 7.4 – Application requirements for all permits.

Rule 7.5.2 – Notice requirements of the Applicant and the General Manager and what is required in a notice.

Rule 7.6 – Considerations for granting permits.

Rule 7.13.8 – Notice depending on capacity of well(s).

Rule 14.2 – Who to send the hearing notices to, where to post notices, and when/where to schedule hearings.

RAINWATER HARVEST GRANTS SAVE WATER



Rainwater Harvesting is not new. Native Americans and early settlers relied on harvesting rainwater for drinking, water for animals, gardening and more! Is it legal to catch your own rainwater and use it? Of course it is in Texas and every state in the country! A few states have restrictions on the amount of rainwater and how it is collected. Rhode Island, Virginia and Texas encourage it with tax credits or exemptions. In Texas there is no sales tax on Rainwater supplies.

The average 1,500 square foot home will collect 1,000 gallons with a 1" rain! But why should you collect rainwater? Rainwater Free! Rainwater is great for plants! It is clean and salt-free! Rainwater is great for washing clothes and flushing toilets! You

can do it yourself. It protects our watershed. It allows for more infiltration and less runoff and there is less draw on Municipal water system or our aquifers.

Another reason to install your own Rainwater Harvesting System is because you can qualify for a POSGCD Grant of up to \$3,000 for your Rainwater Harvesting system. To qualify you must own land in the District, complete an approved Rainwater Harvesting 101 course (which is Free). District staff must approve site plan before the purchase of reimbursable rainwater equipment and be inspected after installation. It is that simple. Reimbursements are limited to \$1 per gallon of rainwater storage capacity of the completed system. For more information visit www.posgcd.org/rainwater/



Bobby Bazan moves to TGWA as New Executive Director!

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Bobby Bazan as Texas Ground Water Association's, (TGWA), new Executive Director. Bobby has served as Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District's Water Resource Management Specialist for the past ten years. He will begin his term as TGWA's Executive Director on January 2, 2023. The Board and Staff wish Bobby all the best in his new position, and we look forward to working with him in his new role. We are confident that this will be a great opportunity for him and wish him the best of luck. It has been an honor and privilege to work with Bobby. He has done a fantastic job at POSGCD. We will truly miss him.

Bobby commented, "As we celebrate this season of Thanksgiving, I will forever be grateful for my time with Post Oak Savannah GCD. I am thankful for the people that I have come to know through this job, including Gary Westbrook, our General Manager, the wonderful staff, all the Directors that served and continue to serve on the Board, and most certainly all the landowners of Burleson and Milam counties whom I had the pleasure of serving. Even though I will no longer be at the District, this is by no means a goodbye. I will continue to work in the groundwater industry and continue to be an advocate for groundwater resources."



John Redington- New Director

Redington grew up helping his grandparents on the family ranch in the Sharp/Lilac area and later graduated from Southwestern University with a Bachelor's in History and a minor in Political Science. He then earned a Juris Doctorate in 2003 from St. Mary's University School of Law. After running a successful law practice with offices in Cameron and Temple, Redington became the First Assistant District Attorney/Special Crimes Prosecutor for Milam County and later Falls County. Currently, Redington is the Senior Associate at the firm of Allison, Bass, Magee, LLP where he represents counties, cities, school districts, groundwater districts and other local entities in litigation and other legal affairs. He is Past President of the Cameron Rotary Club, and a member of Lilac Cemetery Association, Milam County Bar Association and Texas District & County Attorneys Association.

Mr. Redington lives in Lilac, Texas, where he continues his family's legacy in the beef cattle industry as Manager of the YX Ranch. Redington says he hopes his years of experience representing public entities will serve the Board well. "Out of an outstanding group of candidates, I am so honored that the Milam County Commissioners Court appointed me to the represent the people of Milam County in managing our precious aquifers," he said. An avid outdoorsman, Redington says he intends to protect the District's valuable natural resources for future generations.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

Rainwater Harvesting February 7, 2023 5:30 pm-8:30 pm

Rainwater Harvesting April 21, 2023 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

EarthKind Landscapes March 10, 2023 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Landscape Irrigation May 11, 2023 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.

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District
310 East Avenue C
P.O. Box 92
Milano, Texas 76556

NONPROFIT ORG.	
U.S. POSTAGE	
PAID	
PERMIT NO. 80	



POSGCD SOCIAL:



@PostOakSavannahGCD



@posgcd



Let's chat!

Phone: 512.455.9900

Email: admin@posgcd.org

Visit our website for more information:

www.posgcd.org

This issue and past issues of the Newsletter are available on our website.

upcoming events

February 7th, 2023 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Rainwater Harvesting class POSGCD office

February 23rd 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Rainwater Harvesting class POSGCD office

March 10th 9:00 am - 11:00 am

EarthKind Landscapes class POSGCD office

May 11th Time TBA

Landscape Irrigation class POSGCD office

Our Board Meetings are the

Second Tuesday of each month

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).



Ward Roddam, President

Jay Wilder, Vice President

Tommy Tietjen, Sec/Treas

Becky Goetsch

John Redington

Steven Wise

Bob Wilson

Ed Savage

Buster Evers

Kit Worley

Staff

Gary Westbrook, General Manager

Courtney Gentry, Administrative Assistant

Kelli Timmerman, Office Manager

Bobby Bazan, Water Resource Specialist

Michael Redman, Regulatory Compliance Specialist

Craig Andrews, Field Technician

Jeff Fisher, Field Technician

Doug Box, Education Coordinator

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.