

Recharge

Your Local Groundwater Resource



Winter 2024
Volume 13 Issue 4

A Warm Welcome to the New Year!



We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and enjoyed time with loved ones this holiday season. As the year comes to a close, it's a great time to reflect on the progress made and the moments shared throughout 2024. The new year brings a fresh start, and Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District looks forward to continuing to serve the community and protect our water resources in 2025. Wishing you a happy, healthy, and hopeful new year!

Looking Back on 2024



Looking Back on 2024

Growth of the Aquifer Conservancy Program

The ACP has enrolled **48,243 acres** since it started in 2019, paying landowners over **\$2.2 million** to protect groundwater. In 2024, the program grew by **3,223 acres**, with landowners earning **\$115,754 in sign-up bonuses**. Increased sign-up payments of \$50 per acre and a \$5 per acre referral bonus helped boost participation this year. Learn more or sign up visit www.posgcd.org/acp.

Boom in Rainwater Harvesting

The Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program had an outstanding year in 2024, with **\$85,470 in rebates awarded** for installing rainwater collection systems. These projects added **206,503 gallons** of new storage capacity through the installation of **69 tanks!** This program helps residents save water and reduce demand on groundwater supplies by making it easier to collect and use rainwater.

More Funding for Local Water Systems

In 2024, over **\$1.7 million** was awarded to local water utilities to fix old water lines and replace outdated meters. These upgrades help stop water leaks, saving an estimated **249 million gallons of groundwater annually**. This year's awards:

- **City of Caldwell:** Received **\$675,000** for two projects, including replacing outdated meters and lowering well pumps.
- **City of Rockdale:** Awarded **\$315,100** for improvements to water meters and the treatment plant, for a total lifetime award of **\$1,454,888**.
- **Southwest Milam WSC:** Granted **\$92,723** to replace aging water lines, for a total lifetime award of **\$1,126,238**.

Keeping an Eye on Our Water

The **Monitoring Network** has over **400 wells** to help us keep track of water levels and how the aquifers are responding to pumping. This information helps make smarter decisions to protect our water supply. The **Groundwater Well Assistance Program: (GWAP)** has funded **\$246,822** to restore service to 15 wells free of charge to the owners.

Meet our New Field Tech!

Travis, a Burleson County native from Snook, earned a degree in Agricultural Leadership & Development from Texas A&M. He grew up working on diesel equipment with his father on their farm and later repaired tractors and implements in the Brazos Valley. Travis spent over 15 years at Blue Bell Creameries as Assistant Manager in the Ingredient Processing Department. He lives in Caldwell with his wife, son Jacob, and they are expecting a second child this spring!



Meet Travis Wood, our new Field Technician!



Find out more by visiting:
www.posgcd.org/rainwater



Water level being measured.



Craig Andrews (left), Jeff Fisher (middle), and landowner (right) working on a GWAP well.

Looking Back on 2024

Growth is Coming - Here's What the Board is Doing About It

The District is taking action to protect groundwater and ensure sustainable growth in our region. This year, two new Rules are tackling these challenges head-on.

NEW District Rule Section 18: Water Availability for Subdivisions means developers of new subdivisions must work with the District and the County to conduct groundwater studies to certify plats have evidence of groundwater supply to support that development.

Before approval, developers must submit groundwater studies that:

- Project long-term water needs for their developments.
- Assess potential impacts on local water supplies and other groundwater users.

NEW District Rule Tying Water Rights to New Wells

In the recently approved Rule Section 7.10 in subsection 1a, landowners now need to have 2 acres of water rights to drill a new exempt well (typically for household or livestock watering). Here's what it means:

- **Water Rights:** 2 acres provide up to 4 acre-feet of water per year.
- **Transparency:** Water rights details should be included in property deeds.
- **Reacquiring Rights:** If water rights have been sold or leased, property owners will need to work with the listed entity or owner in the deed to reacquire them.

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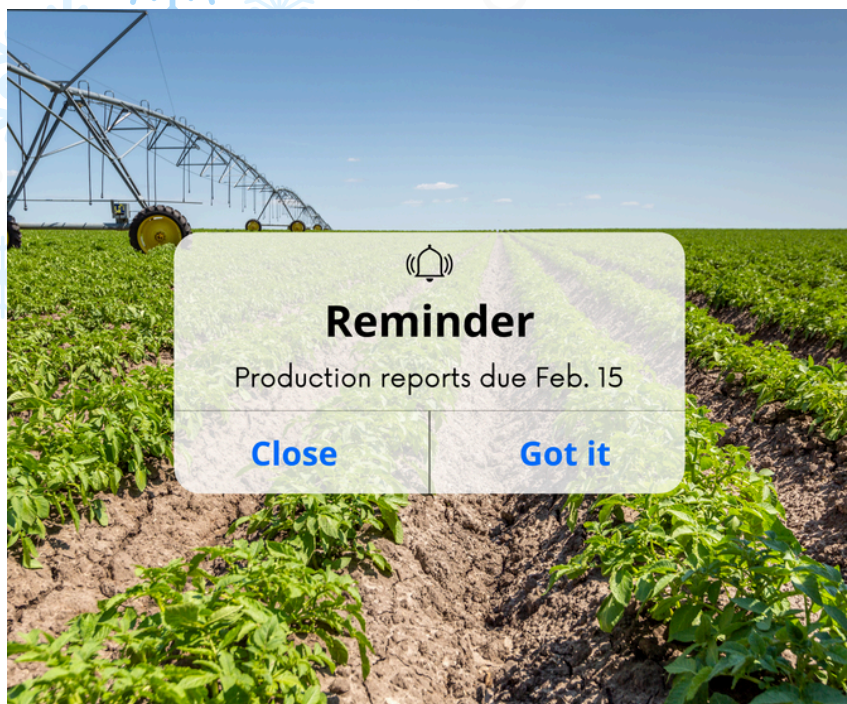
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