

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District
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Your Groundwater Resource



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A Great Summit to Celebrate our 10th Year!

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it out to the the 10th Annual Burleson and Milam Counties Groundwater Summit this year! We brought together statewide experts and policymakers to ask the tough questions and talk about the ongoing challenges of managing groundwater in a quickly growing State. This year the speakers and panelists were focused in on topics related to the growing pressures on Texas's water resources driven by population growth and economic development. Panelists and presenters dug in to answer the tough questions and talk about what how we can manage groundwater for the long-term. We've included highlights, recaps, and more! **Highlights include:**



- New 5-Year Permit Review Process Begins in 2025 to Address Groundwater Impacts in the District
- New Cloud-Based Data System to Enhance Public Access to Groundwater Monitoring

- Aquifer Drawdown Mostly Within Limits, Carrizo Management Area Exceeds Thresholds
- GCDs Face Increasing Challenges Balancing Property Rights and Water Regulation - on a Local and Regional Level in Groundwater Management Area 12 as State Population Grows
- Texas Water Planning Highlights Need for Regional Strategies Amid Growing Demand
- Legislative Updates Stress Importance of Engagement with Policy and Legislature in Groundwater Management



We're Hiring!



FIELD TECHNICIAN



We're Hiring!

FIELD TECHNICIAN



FULL JOB DESCRIPTION:
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/JOBS-FIELD-TECH-2024](https://bit.ly/jobs-field-tech-2024)

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Top Insights from the Summit

This year's Groundwater Summit welcomed about 150 attendees, which was a little smaller than we're used to. Unfortunately, a mix-up with our print order, along with delays in the mail, meant the newsletter announcing the Summit didn't reach most people until after the event. On top of that, we've heard that some of our emails are landing in spam or junk folders. We're actively working to resolve these issue, but in the meantime, please check your junk folder for any updates from us! This year, the Summit featured a strong lineup of presentations that sparked some great discussions. We covered everything from groundwater monitoring to legislative updates, and we've highlighted the key takeaways from each session below. If you missed it, don't worry—you can still watch the presentations online. <http://bit.ly/posgcd-summit-videos>

State of Water in Texas

Tony Smith broke down Texas's big water challenges as the population booms. He pointed out that cities like Georgetown are among the top areas driving up groundwater demand. To keep up, Smith emphasized the importance of smart infrastructure, water conservation efforts, and efficiency improvements that can help reduce strain on the system while supporting growth.

Panel Discussion: Property Rights vs. Regulation

Moderated by John Dupnik from the Texas Water Development Board and panelists explored the complexities of balancing property rights with sustainable groundwater use. Panelists, including General Managers Alan Day (Brazos Valley GCD) and Jim Totten (Lost Pines GCD), Gary Westbrook (POSGCD) that discussed how their district interprets the legislative framework GCDs work within, and how these differences can complicate joint planning efforts in Groundwater Management Area 12 when determining Desired Future Conditions (DFCs). The need for responsible regulation to balance growing demands with limited water resources was a central theme.



Legislative Update

Sarah Kinkle led a panel that included former Representative for District 77, Robby Cook, that provided an update on recent legislative actions affecting groundwater management. Panelists emphasized that ongoing dialogue with lawmakers will be essential as Texas prepares for the upcoming legislative session, with a focus on shaping water policy that supports sustainable growth.

District Update

Board Vice President John Reddington expressed gratitude to former Education Coordinator Doug Box for his contributions to the District and honored former Directors Bob Wilson and Tommy Tietjen for their dedicated service. Mr. Tietjen served 11 years and Mr. Wilson served 8, both leaving a lasting impact on groundwater protection in our two counties. We are very thankful for their commitment and the long-term benefits of their work.

District Program Updates

Staff shared updates on grant programs like the Aquifer Conservancy Program and Groundwater Well Assistance

Program, with all 18 programs together representing 76% of the District's budget, or about \$3.6 million annually, that's put back into the communities we serve.

Videos Now Available!



<http://bit.ly/posgcd-summit-videos>



Save the Date

11/9/2024	Rainwater Harvesting 101
3/15/2025	EarthKind Landscaping
5/16/2025	Rainwater Harvesting 201

<https://posgcd.org/events/>

State of our Aquifers: Aquifer Status, DFC Compliance, and Monitoring Update

Gregory Perry provided an update on the District's groundwater monitoring efforts, emphasizing the importance of tracking water levels across various aquifers to ensure sustainable use. The District has expanded its network to include 439 monitoring wells, with 112 wells equipped with continuous measurement devices that record water levels as often as every four hours. Data collected from these wells help assess aquifer health and guide decisions on water management. Perry also introduced new tools that will soon be available on the District's website, allowing the public to view water level data in real-time.

Most aquifers in the District are currently within acceptable drawdown limits, indicating that groundwater levels are generally stable. However, the Carrizo Management Area has exceeded threshold 1 of the Protective Drawdown Limits (PDLs), signaling the need for close monitoring and potential adjustments in water use to protect the aquifer and stay in compliance with Desired Future Conditions (DFCs).

5-Year Permit Review Overview

Our Regulatory Compliance Specialist Michael Redman gave a presentation about the new review process the Board added to District Rules that will evaluate groundwater permits every five years starting in January, to check compliance and unreasonable impacts on groundwater. This review will involve a detailed assessment of 726 permits, focusing on whether permitted production aligns with the District's

Importantly, this review will not affect exempt wells or change the existing protective drawdown limits or desired future conditions. Permits found to cause unreasonable impacts may see their production levels adjusted to better protect the aquifers.

Big Increase in ACP Bonus!

We have great news for landowners interested in conserving groundwater! At the August Board meeting, the Board of Directors approved a significant increase in the sign-up bonus for the Aquifer Conservancy Program (ACP).

Starting now, you can earn \$50 per acre when you enroll—double the previous bonus of \$25!



Texas Sage

Salvia texana

Native shrub in the mint family; attracts butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds

Full sun to partial shade

Low water requirement

Perennial

Sign-up today!
\$50 PER ACRE

This is a one-time payment made at a higher rate that's made in addition to the annual payments made on the anniversary of your enrollment date every year. The annual payment amount is based on the number of years the landowner commits to retaining their water rights.

47,000+ acres enrolled
\$2.1 million paid to landowners
350+ landowners enrolled

While the bonus is only available to new enrollees, the Board of Directors has asked the Advisory Committee to look into ways to increase the annual payments for current enrollees and explore the possibility of a bonus for referrals - stay tuned!

For more information about the ACP or to sign up, visit www.posgcd.org/acp or contact Courtney Gentry at admin@posgcd.org or (512) 455-9900.