



GCGCD NEWS



FALL 2018 Newsletter



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Change of Address

GCGCD is MOVING our Office!!

November 1st our new physical address will be:

**122 West Ireland Street
Seguin, TX 78155**



**New
Office**

WWW.GCGCD.ORG



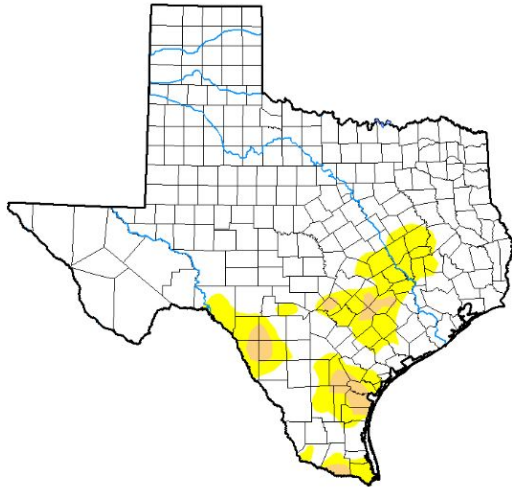
Visit our website for more information!



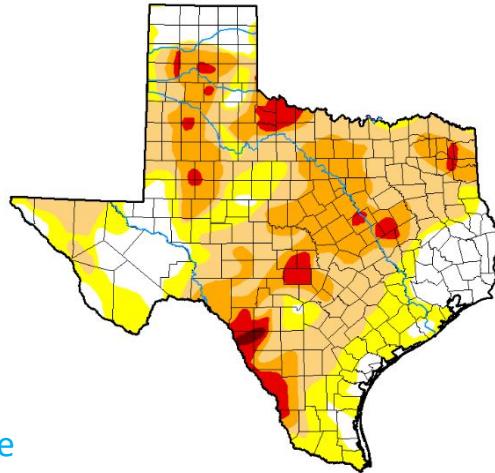
Global Warming?

August 2017 - August 2018 Comparison

August 22, 2017



August 21, 2018

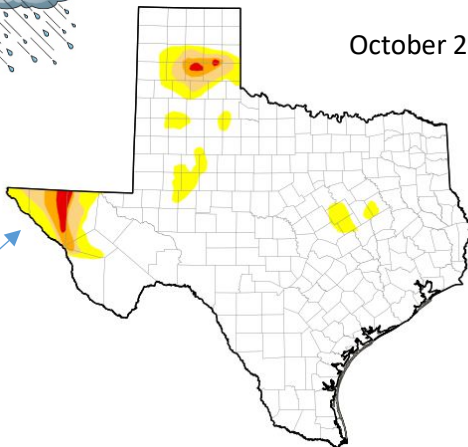


Then came

RAIN



October 2018



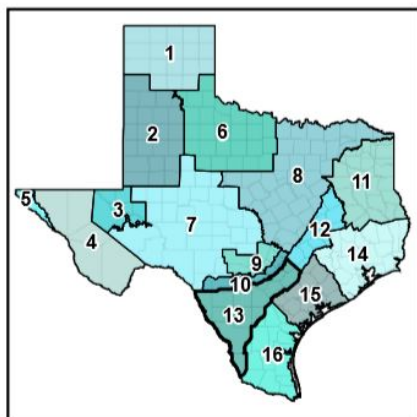
Update on GCGCD vs. POCG

TCEQ issues landfill permit

On August 29, 2018, TCEQ commissioners voted to issue a landfill permit to Post Oak Clean Green, Inc., allowing them to construct and operate a landfill in close proximity to the Randolph Air Force Base's Seguin Auxiliary Field and over the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer recharge area. The commissioners issued the permit, despite numerous concerns raised by local residents, local elected officials, state elected officials, and even federal elected officials.

The decision followed two administrative, evidentiary hearings, lasting a total of 19 days. The first hearing convened in January 2016 and lasted two weeks.

Continued on page 7.



GMA 13 – next meeting November 16, 2018

Meetings are held at the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District (EUWCD) 110 Wyoming Blvd. Pleasanton, TX

http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/management_areas/gma13.asp

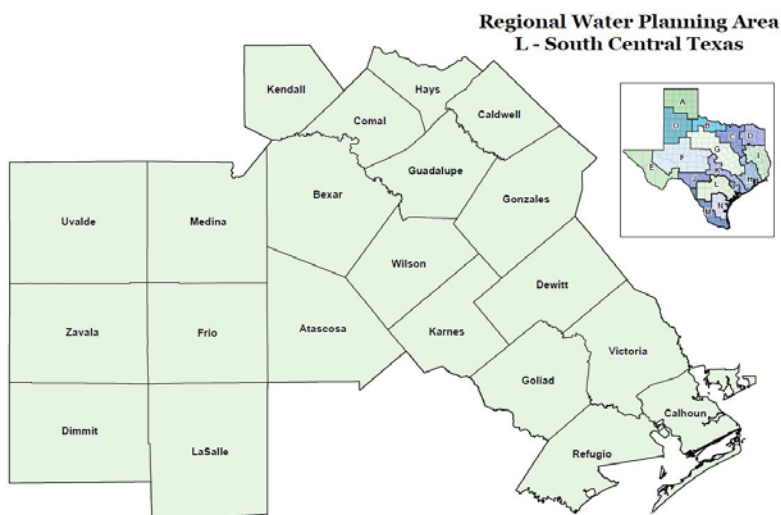
and on the GCGCD website: <http://gcgcd.org/agendas--notices.html>

Here's an acronym for you!

SCTRWPG - what's that?

South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (SCTRWPG) of which Region L is a part of, purpose is to provide comprehensive regional water planning and to carry out the related responsibilities placed on regional water planning groups by state law. Foremost among those responsibilities is the development of a regional water plan for the planning area. The plan identifies both short and long-term water supply needs and recommends water management strategies for addressing them. The plan is updated every 5 years.

<http://www.regionltexas.org/>



Meeting Minutes

Approved Minutes of GCGCD meetings are now available on our website for 2018

<http://gcgcd.org/minutes.html>

For historic minutes, contact the District gcgcd@gcgcd.org



Region L

Met on November 1, 2018

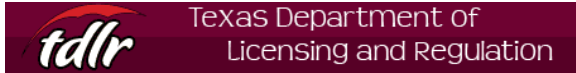
[Agenda](#)

Next Meeting January 31, 2019

San Antonio Water System (SAWS)
Customer Service Building Room CR-145
2800 US Highway 281 North
San Antonio, TX 78212

GCGCD Agendas & Notices posted

<http://gcgcd.org/agendas--notices.html>



TDLR Water Well Driller Advisory Council (WWDAC) is scheduled to meet Friday, December 7, 2018 at 10:30 am 1st Floor Public Meeting Room of the [TDLR's North Campus](#), 1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 125E, Austin

The Meeting will be broadcast on [TDLR's YouTube Channel](#)



How to determine if your well is an irrigation well requiring a permit with the Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District?

Does your well have a large diameter casing?

Is your well used to irrigate crops/grassland?

Could it produce more than 25,000 gallons per day?

*If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, give us a call and let us help you determine if your well **REQUIRES** a permit.



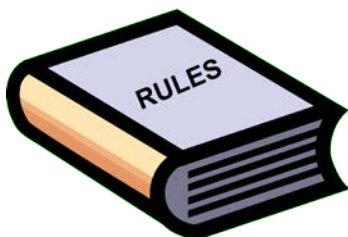
If you have an unpermitted irrigation well – NOW is the time to contact the District! GCGCD is currently accepting applications for existing wells drilled without a valid permit. You MUST have a valid permit to produce water from an irrigation well.

To get your well compliant with District Rules and State Law- Contact the District TODAY!

We will work with you and help you through the application process 😊

For more information visit our website:

<http://gcgcd.org/permits.html> or call 830-379-5969



Click here to read GCGCD Rules



Water
Level



[September 2018 Summary of Aquifer Level Report](#)

Click to read full report – summary below:

- Water levels for the Carrizo have declined ~ -2 feet (average of 9 wells) in Guadalupe County – which is to be expected.
- Largest Carrizo aquifer measured water level declines were in the CRWA & SSLGC areas
- Wilcox aquifer water levels were down ~ 1 foot
- Carrizo estimated long-term water level decline of ~ -0.5 feet per year in the outcrop appears to meet DFC requirements
- Small to moderate long-term water level declines in the Carrizo aquifer are expected over time because of SSLGC, SAWS, SHWSC, & CRWA well fields in Guad.

William B. Klemt
William B. Klemt, P.G.

<u>Producer</u>	<u>Aquifer</u>	<u>Permitted Amount (AF/YR)</u>	<u>Percent Produced as of Sept. 2018</u>
CRWA	Carrizo	2,603.42	47.85%
	Wilcox	3,026.00	25.45%
SSLGC	Carrizo	4,032.52	0.00%
	Wilcox	1,290.40	0.00%
SHWSC	Carrizo	1,106.23	45.67%
	Wilcox	N/A	N/A
CCSUD	Carrizo	N/A	N/A
	Wilcox	741.60	0.00%



September 2018 Producer News

Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corporation (SSLGC) applied for and was granted the following amendments to current GCGCD Carrizo permit:

1. Increase in the annual quantity of groundwater authorized to be withdrawn from the Carrizo Aquifer
2. A change in the location of groundwater withdrawal
3. An addition of one water well to the current permit



TEXAS GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION
to develop, promote, and protect Texas ground water

TGWA Women’s Division president Susan Rumbelow is creating a children’s educational storybook - writing the story of water well drilling in Texas. The book is designed to highlight careers available in the groundwater industry with the hopes of getting youth excited and inspired to pursue the many opportunities in this most important field of study.



TGWA Annual Convention
January 23-25, 2019
Embassy Suites in San Marcos, Texas
2019 Registration Coming Soon!

NEW: Geoscientist Seminar

This year, the TGWA Ground Water Science Board is hosting a “Geoscience Seminar: The Trinity Aquifer.” Professional Geoscientist and water well driller/pump installer continuing education hours will be provided. The cost will be \$150 for members, and \$200 for nonmembers. The cost to attend the full TGWA annual convention is \$175. If a person registers for both the seminar and the convention, they will receive a \$50 discount.

NGWA is a community of groundwater professionals working together to advance groundwater knowledge and the success of its members through education and outreach; advocacy; cooperation and information exchange; and enhancement of professional practices. The National Ground Water Association is a private nonprofit organization representing the professionals involved in the groundwater industry: scientists and engineers, water well drilling contractors and pump installers, and equipment manufacturers and suppliers.



Dr. Leyon Greene, TWDB
TexMesonet

TAGD Groundwater Summit
August 2018



A special 'Thank you' to Amber Beard, SSLGC and Regina Franke, CCSUD for taking the time to join us at the Groundwater Summit!



Update on GCGCD vs. Post Oak Clean Green



TCEQ landfill permit continued from page 2.

After the close of that hearing, the Stop Post Oak Dump (SPOD) organization—an organization consisting of local landowners who would be impacted by the proposed dump – discovered that officials and experts with the Randolph Air Force Base were concerned about the proposed landfill, and the bird strike risks that it presented to their training pilots. They expressed these concerns in writing to TCEQ officials, but TCEQ staff did not alert the judges during the evidentiary hearing or the parties who were protesting the proposed landfill permit. When SPOD and others became aware of these expressed concerns, they obtained affidavits from various Air Force personnel and submitted these to the judges presiding over the hearing. For instance, Colonel Michael Snell of the 12th Flying Wing operating out of Randolph Air Force Base noted, via sworn affidavit, that Post Oak’s proposed landfill presented a significant bird strike risk to airmen flying sorties at a nearby airfield. Other issues raised during the evidentiary hearing included Post Oak Clean Green’s failure to plug all old, abandoned, oil and gas wells on the landfill property and the risks associated with siting the landfill over the sensitive Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer recharge area. Following the hearing, the administrative law judges found that Post Oak Clean Green failed to satisfy all of TCEQ’s regulations applicable to landfill permits. But they recommended neither issuance of the permit nor denial of the permit.

TCEQ commissioners convened a public meeting to consider Post Oak’s requested landfill permit on April 12, 2017. During that meeting, the TCEQ Commissioners declined to issue Post Oak its requested landfill permit, reasoning that Post Oak failed to adequately address all of TCEQ’s regulatory requirements. Instead, by a vote of 2 to 1, the Commission decided to remand the permit application back to the State Office of Administrative Hearings to allow Post Oak another opportunity to attempt to satisfy TCEQ’s landfill permitting requirements regarding 4 specific issues. Former Commissioner Toby Baker cast the dissenting vote, explaining that he would have denied the permit rather than remand it for another hearing.

Among the issues the commissioners identified to be addressed at the second hearing were whether the proposed landfill poses a risk to the lives of pilots flying out of the Randolph Air Force Base; whether Post Oak properly plugged all old, abandoned oil and gas wells; whether Post Oak could justify its request to operate the landfill 24 hours per day, 7 days per week; and whether Post Oak’s characterization of the subsurface geology and groundwater was accurate.

Continued on page 8.

TCEQ permit continued:

The second hearing was convened in January 2018. During this hearing, evidence presented by the parties plainly demonstrated that the proposed landfill site is within an area that poses a significant bird strike hazard because of the frequent presence of low-flying, high speed, fragile aircraft flown by Air Force training pilots.

Even the Air Force's bird strike expert expressed serious concern about siting a landfill so close to an Air Force training field. And Lt. Colonel Emil Bliss, who provided sworn testimony as a representative of the Air Force, explained that "any bird strike could be potentially catastrophic. Again[,] it depends on the airplane. The T-38 being as old as it is I believe the [engine] is a little more susceptible to damage than different air frames. So, even a single small bird could result in a loss of thrust of one or[,] if you hit a flock[,] of both engines."

Post Oak argued, during the second hearing, that any concerns regarding the risks to the lives of Air Force pilots were adequately addressed via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into between the Air Force and Post Oak Clean Green, Inc. This MOU to which Post Oak referred was secretly negotiated, well after the first evidentiary hearing had ended, without any input from area residents, TCEQ staff, or even the Air Force's own bird strike expert. Moreover, Post Oak never requested that TCEQ staff review the MOU or incorporate it into the permit. In fact, when TCEQ staff was finally provided a copy of the MOU, they expressed concerns about whether the MOU could even be enforced by landfill inspectors. As the Executive Director's own legal counsel noted: "there are several parts of the agreement that would be difficult to enforce or beyond our expertise."

At the TCEQ public meeting, during which the TCEQ commissioners deliberated about whether to grant Post Oak's requested landfill permit, elected officials from the local, state, and federal level expressed their opposition to the proposed landfill. Guadalupe County Commissioner Greg Seidenberger, a pilot with 20 years of experience in the Air Force and who is personally aware of the threats of bird strikes, expressed grave concerns about the risks of operating a landfill so close to the Air Force training field. He reminded the TCEQ commissioners that the Air Force base is not only critical to the area and State economy, but it is also critical to our national defense. Seguin Mayor Don Keil, reminded the commissioners of how vitally important our groundwater resources are, particularly considering the growth that Central Texas is experiencing, and implored the commissioners not to allow the siting of a landfill in an area that poses a danger to those resources.

Continued on page 9.



TCEQ permit continued:

Representative Kuempel provided the commissioners with written remarks and oral remarks, emphasizing that the Carrizo-Wilcox and the Randolph Air Force Base are both vital resources, and any potential threat to either of these resources is simply not worth it. State Senator Zaffirini also expressed her opposition, in a letter addressed to the TCEQ commissioners. She too shared concerns about siting a landfill so close to the Air Force training field and over a sensitive aquifer recharge area. Congressman Gonzalez’s staff read a letter from the Congressman sharing the concerns expressed by others—namely, concerns about the safety of the Air Force pilots.

The Commission’s decision to disregard its rules regarding airport safety will increase the risks faced by pilots using the Joint Base San Antonio Seguin Auxiliary Air Field. Post Oak’s and the Commission’s reliance on a vague and ambiguous Memorandum of Understanding between the Air Force and Post Oak that was formulated at the last minute with no input from TCEQ staff does not resolve these risks. The Commission not only allowed Post Oak to site its landfill close to the Air Field and over a recharge zone, but it also granted Post Oak permission to use an alternative liner design—an alternative to the traditional liner required by TCEQ rules—and the Commission ignored evidence, produced by Post Oak’s own consultants, indicating that the landfill will be excavated into shallow groundwater in some areas.

The mission of the Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District is to conserve, preserve, protect, and prevent waste of groundwater.

The Post Oak landfill poses a threat to these precious resources and to our community. For these reasons, we, the Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District, and the Guadalupe Community will continue to fight this risky landfill project, via all legal avenues available to us.



MISSION:


Conserve, Preserve, Protect & Prevent Waste of Groundwater

UPCOMING EVENTS –

- November 16th GMA 13 Meeting @ EUWCD 10 AM
- No GCGCD Regular board meeting in December – Next meeting January 10, 2019
- PLAN AHEAD – REGISTER NOW!!
- January 23rd - 25th TGWA 2019 Annual Convention – Embassy Suites, San Marcos, TX
- January 23rd – 25th TWDB - Water For Texas – AT&T Executive Education & Conference Center Austin, TX



New Office Location:
**122 W. Ireland St.,
 Seguin, TX**
 Call for an appointment!
 PO BOX - Same
**PO BOX 1221 Seguin, TX
 78156**
 Same Phone & Fax #
830-379-5969



GCGCD Board of Directors & Staff

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 Jeff Schuehle.....Vice President, District 7.....jeff_schuehle@gcgcd.org
 Hilmar Blumberg.....Secretary, District 2.....hilmar_blumberg@gcgcd.org
 Charles J. Willmann.....Treasurer, District 5.....charlie_willmann@gcgcd.org
 A. Robert Raetzsch.....District 3.....raetzsch@gcgcd.org
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