

GCGCD NEWS



FALL 2022 Newsletter

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One Person – One Vote The Redistricting of Political Boundaries

As the population of Guadalupe County continues to grow, it is sometimes necessary to adjust voting district boundaries to evenly balance population and ensure that ethnic populations are fairly represented.

In accordance with the Texas Election Code, all political subdivisions that elect their governing body from single member districts must periodically assess the population balance of each district. Per federal law, the assessment of population must be done using the actual census block data.

Following the publication of the 2020 Census, the GCGCD conducted an initial assessment which revealed an imbalance in excess of the federally mandated maximum of ten percent.

Therefore, in order to be compliant with the acceptable “one person-one vote”

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WWW.GCGCD.ORG



Visit our website for more information!

Happy Fall Everyone!

Such a busy time of year! As you learned from the cover story, we have recently completed redistricting the political boundaries. Another major project update – we have submitted our publicly adopted Management Plan to the Texas Water Development Board for review and approval, and we're giving our website a much-needed upgrade! Take a look at our new look [GCGCD Website](#) – more updates on the way!

With Thanksgiving just around the corner – I want to take a moment to thank the members of our board for their continued dedication to the District. We are so appreciative of your time and grateful for the work that you do in supporting conservation & preservation of groundwater resources. **Happy Holidays Everyone!!**



Kelley Cochran



Meet our new Fall Interns!!



"I'm a senior at Texas Lutheran University, and I'm majoring in Communication Studies. TLU has given me many learning abilities, and I'm excited to apply what I've learned at the Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District. I'm thrilled to contribute knowledge to GCGCD and receive hands-on learning opportunities. I aim to learn from board meetings, make connections with district workers, grow my environmental awareness, and use what I've learned for my future."

Caroline Hrcncir

"My name is Jacob Sagstetter, and I am currently a student at Texas Lutheran University. I'm a junior Environmental Biology major and am looking to either work for a government environmental regulation agency or go into education as a teacher. I heard about the internship opportunity from one of my professors Dr. Gustafson who currently sits on the board for the district. I have a deep love for the environment given how many opportunities I had to enjoy it through my family and time in Boy Scouts. I felt conflicted when first entering college about what I wanted to do but ultimately decided on biology, as it drew me in and seemed to reach into many different fields. Whatever I end up doing in the future, I know that I want to be in a job where I feel I am making a difference and helping others. I'm looking forward to being a part of the internship program and the experiences I'll gain from it".

Jacob Sagstetter

Water Well Maintenance to Prevent Waste of Groundwater

It is important for well owners to perform maintenance properly and routinely on their private wells.

One thing to check for, especially in an older well, is the possibility of leaks. Leaks may not always be visible on the surface. Subsurface leaks can be difficult to spot.

Some causes for a 'leaky' well casing could range from corrosion to splits at a welded or defective seam.

Here are some signs to look for:

- Decreased pumping rate
- Increased sand or sediment in the water
- Decreased water level
- Degradation of water quality

If your well is exhibiting signs of reduced water quality and/or well performance, you may have a deteriorating well in need of restoration.

Some recommendations:

- Periodically test water quality - water testing provides valuable information
- Ensure equipment is functional through periodic well inspections
- Maintain an active well as they are less susceptible to corrosion
- Select materials designed to withstand corrosion

Identifying and stopping leaks is just one way private well owners can prevent waste of groundwater. Being proactive in maintaining or restoring your well can help avoid high maintenance costs and protect groundwater resources. If you need assistance with your well - contact a local licensed water well driller. To find a driller near you – visit the TDLR website. [Water Well Drillers and Pump Installers | Texas.gov](https://www.tdlr.state.tx.us/industry/water-well-drillers-and-pump-installers)

One Person – One Vote

Continued from cover.....

constitutional balance of population between the seven district boundaries, the political boundaries were redrawn. The newly adopted plan meets all legal requirements and preserves incumbency. Preservation of incumbents is a valid basis for redistricting, in that continuity of leadership is of public value. The new boundaries are relatively straightforward and simple to understand, achieve significant minority population representation, and have a low population deviation from the ideal balance (2.51% Total Maximum Deviation – well under the maximum 10%). To locate what district you live in – visit our website to view an interactive map of the newly adopted political boundaries.

[CONTACT US - Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District \(gcgcd.org\)](https://www.gcgcd.org)



2022 Fall Geronimo and Alligator Creek Clean Up Event

GCGCD proudly supports the efforts of Texas AgriLife Extension and GBRA for helping clean up our watershed!

Pictured to the left – Jacob Sagstetter, GCGCD Intern and Julie Gutierrez, president of the TLU EnAct Club, a TLU campus organization committed to environmental awareness. They joined GCGCD’s field tech Omar Maldonado picking up debris along the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks watershed Saturday, October 22nd.

Thanks to everyone who showed up and supported the cleanup efforts!



The Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program educates youth about the importance of protecting water resources in Texas. Each Spring, up to 30 high school students are chosen to join the 4-H2O Leadership Academy – a summer tour traversing Texas to meet with industry professionals and learn firsthand everything about water. These water ambassadors then share this knowledge with others as they participate in various educational activities across all disciplines of the water industry. GCGCD is proud to sponsor this program and we look forward to sharing our conservation and water management plans with the ‘next generation of water leaders’ of Texas!

Justin Braune, Guadalupe County’s newest 4-H Texas Water Ambassador presented a plaque to the GCGCD board at our September meeting in appreciation of sponsorship.



“Growing the next generation of Water Leaders”



Left to right: Mark Gustafson, Matt Miranda, William Jones, Hilmar Blumberg, Hilmar Stracke III, Robert Raetzsch and Justin Braune.





GCGCD interns joined Omar in the field to perform regular maintenance on the [TexMesonet](#) systems.

Jacob replacing the desiccant and Caroline cleaning the solar panels.



Water Level Report - September 2022 Summary

- a) Short term (9/2021 - 9/2022) Carrizo water levels declined about -1.64 feet.
- b) Long- term (2013 - 2022), Carrizo water levels in the outcrop indicate an average decline of -0.4 feet/year.
- c) Based on an average of water-level data for the 6 monitor wells (2013 - 1/2022), the District is projected to meet 2070 and 2080 DFC achievability.
- d) At the present-day level of pumpage, small to moderate water- level declines are continuing in the Carrizo down-dip from the outcrop.
- e) However, additional proposed pumpage is expected to increase the rate of Carrizo water-level decline within the District to a more moderate level.
- f) For the most part, Wilcox water levels remain relatively stable.

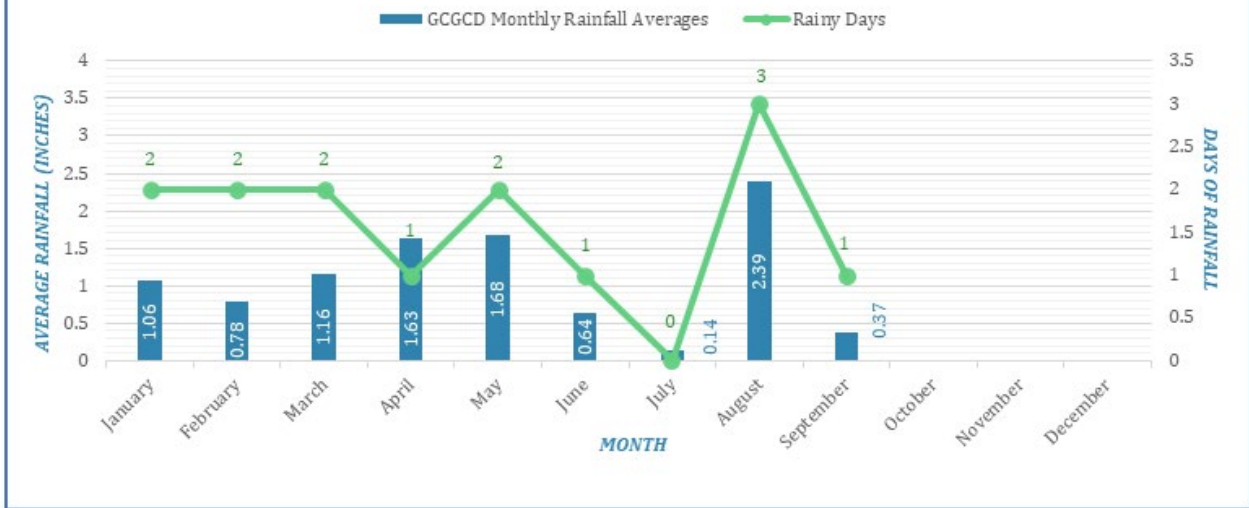


READ ME

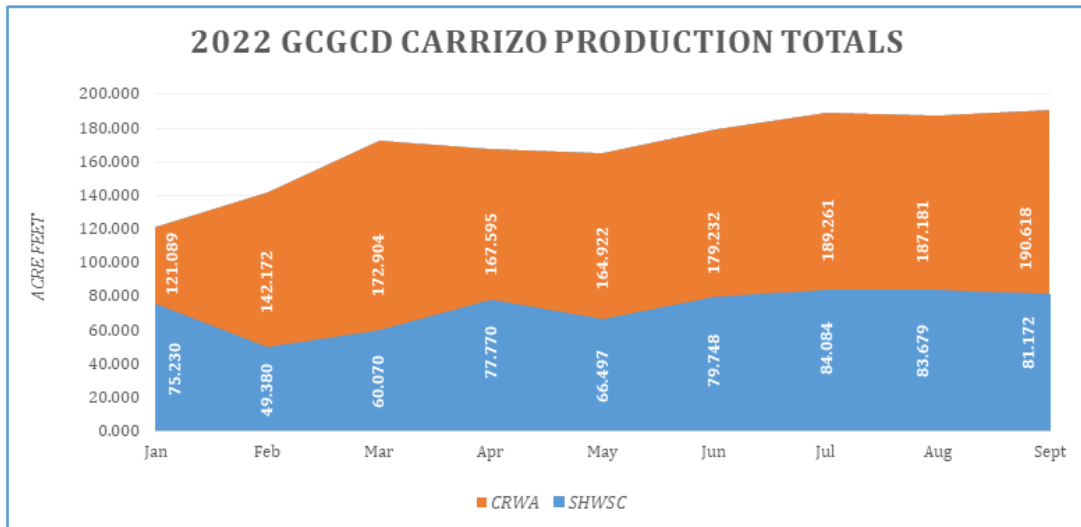


Blake

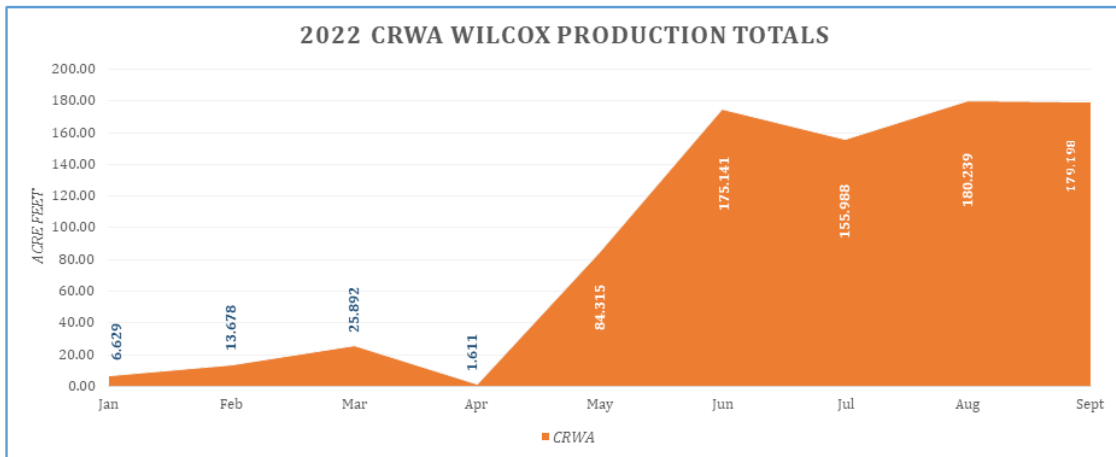
2022 GCGCD AVG Rainfall and Days of Rainfall



2022 GCGCD CARRIZO PRODUCTION TOTALS



2022 CRWA WILCOX PRODUCTION TOTALS



The Clean Water Act Turns 50

Established in 1972, the CWA

- Gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to implement pollution control programs.
- Set water quality standards for all contaminants in surface waters.
- Established regulations on pollutant discharges into US waters.
- Funding the construction of sewage treatment plants.
- Made it unlawful for a person to discharge pollutants into navigable waters without a permit.

The CWA has allowed for thousands of miles of surface waters to be protected that are essential for thriving communities that require access to clean water for their citizens, economy, and agricultural needs. To celebrate the 50th anniversary, the EPA has kicked off a tour that will travel to iconic bodies of waters that are essential to ecosystems, agriculture, economic growth, and flourishing towns and cities. The stops during the EPA tour includes Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, Great Lakes, San Francisco Bay, and the Florida Everglades.

[Clean Water Act 50th Anniversary Campaign \(cwa50.org\)](http://cwa50.org)

The [2023 TGWA Annual Convention](#) **January 25 – 27th**

at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Convention Center in San Marcos, TX



Registration is open!

View the Draft Agenda



Not a member???

[Texas Ground Water Association - Join TGWA](#)

[TGWA website](#) missions - to “foster, aid, and promote scientific education, standards, research, and techniques to improve methods of well construction and development and advance the science of groundwater hydrology; Promote cooperation among well contractors and governmental and scientific agencies in properly developing and protecting underground water supplies”.



Election Day is November 8th

[Guadalupe County Elections Office](#)

**Texas Water
Development Board**



George B. Peyton V

[read more](#)

George Peyton was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott as a board member of the Texas Water Development Board on July 11, 2022, for a term set to expire February 1, 2027.

Former TWDB Director, now [Commissioner Kathleen Jackson](#) was appointed by Governor Abbott to serve as a commissioner on the [Public Utility Commission](#) of Texas on August 5, 2022.


WATER for TEXAS
2023 conference

[Register Now](#)

GMA 13 met on Oct. 14th and selected William R. Hutchison, PE,PG as the hydrogeological consultant to begin contract negotiations with for the next round of desired future conditions.

Next GMA 13 meeting has been scheduled for January 13, 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS –

- November 8th  ELECTION DAY – Cast your VOTE!
- November 3rd Region L – [check website](#) for details
- November 10th GCGCD board meeting – [check website](#) for details & Agenda
- November 23 - 25 GCGCD office closed in celebration of Thanksgiving!
- * GCGCD will not hold a Regular board meeting in December
- January 12, 2023 GCGCD board meeting – 4:30 PM



GCGCD Board of Directors & Staff

- Kelley A. Cochran – General Manager**
kelley@gcgcd.org
- Omar Maldonado – Field Tech/Admin. Assistant**
omar@gcgcd.org
- District 1 – Matt Miranda - Director**
mattjmiranda@gcgcd.org
- District 2 - Hilmar Blumberg - Secretary**
hilmar_blumberg@gcgcd.org
- District 3 - A. Robert Raetzsch – Director**
raetzsch@gcgcd.org
- District 4 - William Jones – Treasurer**
bill_jones@gcgcd.org
- District 5 – Mark Gustafson - Director**
mark_gustafson@gcgcd.org
- District 6 - Hilmar Starcke III - President**
hil_starcke@gcgcd.org
- District 7 - Jeff Schuehle - Vice President**
jeff_schuehle@gcgcd.org



Sunshine Protection Act



Did you know that the Sunshine Protection Act may permanently end Daylight Saving Time?

The bill has already passed in the Senate (March 2022) but is still waiting House approval.


What would that *really* mean?

If approved, it would mean only one more year of changing our clocks!

We would spring ahead one hour March 12, 2023, then fall back one more time **November 5, 2023**, and that's it - that would be the new permanent standard time!

Source: Congress.gov

One more year???

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Don't forget to adjust your clocks!
November 6th
Fall Back One Hour!

