



GCGCD NEWS



Winter 2024 Newsletter

Seguin is a rapidly growing city with a growth rate of about 5% annually. Development in and around Guadalupe County has been accelerating. More homes are being built and more farmland is being divided. Our Groundwater District is not the only conservation entity mindful of this population increase and the potential impacts this greater demand could pose on our water availability and quality. GCGCD staff recently visited with the National Resources Conservation Service experts to discuss how the NRCS handles conservation planning and technical assistance...

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GM Updates

Happy New Year everyone! GCGCD is so excited to start this new year introducing our newest staff member Tiffany and thrilled that Caroline will be joining us full time!

We are currently busy finalizing the updates to the Carrizo Aquifer Water Rights allocations for this year. Look to our [website](#) for updates!

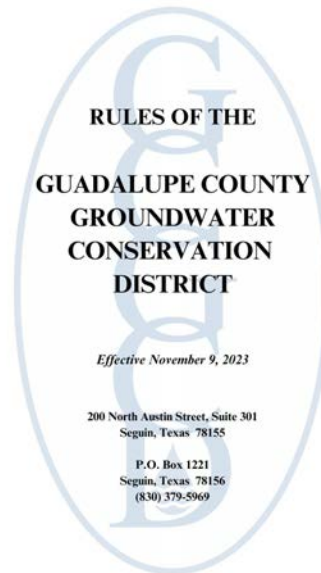
New Administrative Assistant

Greetings! My name is Tiffany Willrich, and I am thrilled to be joining the GCGCD as the newest team member.



In the Spring of 2023, I obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies, and I am currently pursuing my Master's degree in Environmental Studies. My enthusiasm for groundwater and policy drives my commitment to contributing to our shared objectives. I am excited to collaborate with our board members and community to create a better future for groundwater utilization and management.

Amendments to Rules



Following a Rule Making Hearing on November 9th, 2023, the GCGCD Board of Directors adopted the following amendments to the District Rules:

- amendments to implement statutory changes enacted during the most recent Texas Legislative Session related to the District's procedure for the Board's decision-making in a contested case hearing on a permit application; the list of wells exempt from permitting requirements; the District's rulemaking process; and the maximum export fee that may be assessed by the District.
- amendments related to the District's requirements for well location, spacing, setbacks, and annual reporting; drilling and production permits; the registration of an unregulated well for remediation; and well logs shared with the District.

Water Levels

District staff measured water levels on Jan.22 & 23 – Look to our website for Bill Klemt’s report next month.

Evan Schaefer @ MW-CZ-02



[MONITORING WELLS - Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District \(gcgcd.org\)](#)

Education & Outreach



Caroline will be joining our team as full-time Education & Outreach Coordinator!

She will be performing duties such as building our Newsletter, presenting at community events, getting involved with local groups and organizations, and more.

Oath of Office

Robert Raetzsch of District 3 and William Jones of District 4 were administered the Oath of Office by Judge Wright. We want to thank all of our Directors for their continued dedication to the preservation of the aquifers they are charged with managing.

Thank you to 456th Judicial District Judge Heather Wright for joining us at our January Board meeting for the Oath of Office!



Talk + Water

TEXAS + WATER

The District is excited to announce a recent collaboration with the **Texas + Water** Newsletter!

Texas + Water is a monthly newsletter published by The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, the Texas Water Journal and the Texas Water Resources Institute and the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute.

The mission of Texas + Water is to provide timely information on the spectrum of Texas water issues including science, policy, and law. The vision of Texas + Water is to be the trusted, non-partisan, go-to entry point for decision makers seeking to learn about water in Texas.

Kelley participated in a podcast that has been posted to the [Talk + Water](#) section of the newsletter. In this conversation, Texas + Water Editor-in-Chief Dr. Todd Votteler talks with Kelley Cochran, General Manager of the Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District, about the role groundwater conservation districts play in supporting the state’s water management and planning efforts.

Thank you, Texas + Water for giving us the opportunity to share information about our water conservation efforts!

Association Updates

GMA-13

GMA-13 has a new website! To visit the site and learn more about GMA-13, go to:

www.gma13.org **CANCELED**

The next GMA Meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on ~~February 9th~~ of 2024 at the Evergreen UWCD:

Look to the website for rescheduling
110 Wyoming Blvd,
Pleasanton TX, 78064.

TDLR

The TDLR adopted amendments to existing rules regarding the Water Well Drillers and Pump Installers program. The adopted rules implement a change in the length of license terms and renewal terms for certain license holders; update continuing education requirements; update fee amounts for certain license holders; and implement staff changes regarding the delivery of state well reports.

The updated rule chapter will be available on the **Secretary of State website** upon its effective date of January 1, 2024.

TGWA

Pictured left to right – Shawn Vickers with his father, Joe Vickers, and Bill Stein.



At this year's convention, TGWA honored Joe Vickers, an icon in the Groundwater industry, by re-naming the 'Ground Water Science Person of the Year' award to be forever known as the 'Joe Vickers Award'.

This award is given to TGWA members to recognize excellence in and dedication to groundwater science. This year's first recipient of the 'Joe Vickers Award' was given to Bill Stein (Advanced Groundwater Solutions).

Congratulations to Bill for all your years of dedication to your field!



Old logo



New logo



Secondary logo

TCEQ

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has named a permanent executive director for the organization. Chairman Jon Niermann announced the appointment of Interim Executive Director Kelly Keel, as the new executive director, effective immediately, at the December 14th, 2023 agenda meeting.



NRCS & Development in Guadalupe County



Cont. from Page 1...

NRCS District Conservationist James Theis discussed new programs created in response to the booming populations in larger cities like Austin and San Antonio called [Urban Agriculture Initiative](#). Though these new initiatives are helpful for agricultural development around large cities, the Guadalupe County NRCS office normally offers two common routes of assistance, [Conservation Planning](#) & [Technical Assistance](#). A Conservation Plan “identifies a customer’s conservation objectives and assesses and analyzes the natural resources issues on that customer’s land”, later developing that plan on the property. Technical assistance “provides our nation’s farmers, ranchers and forestland owners with the knowledge and tools they need to conserve, maintain and restore the natural resources on their lands and improve the health of their operations for the future.” Although there is no limit to how small a plot of land can be when it comes to offering conservation plans and technical assistance, planning applications for parcels under 5 acres are generally not approved. With these smaller parcels becoming the new normal, there may not be sufficient services available for landowners who might need aid. There are only 83 NRCS offices to cover the 254 counties in the State of Texas, which can add up to a lot of people who need guidance! So how can this increasing development be handled? One method is to disseminate information through sources like the GCGCD Newsletter to keep the public informed. According to the GCGCD Management Plan, “The District will connect with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) representatives at least once a year to exchange information regarding groundwater availability, irrigation demands, and NRCS programs relating to groundwater.” By meeting with the NRCS, the GCGCD can help facilitate a stronger communication line between landowners and the NRCS. Another method would be landowners opting to prevent their land from being divided in the future. The NRCS offers multiple pathways of assistance to landowners seeking to preserve their land. One such avenue is the [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#), which “protects the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses which negatively affect agricultural uses and conservation values, and protects grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible grazing land” for 30 years or perpetually. Promoting and implementing conservation programs within our county would allow entities like the District and the NRCS an opportunity to evaluate the projected population increases, and work to conserve our water, air quality, soil health, energy, and farmland as we adjust to meet the growing needs of our community. Visit www.nrcs.usda.gov to learn more.

HOW CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKS A NINE-STEP PROCESS



Rainfall



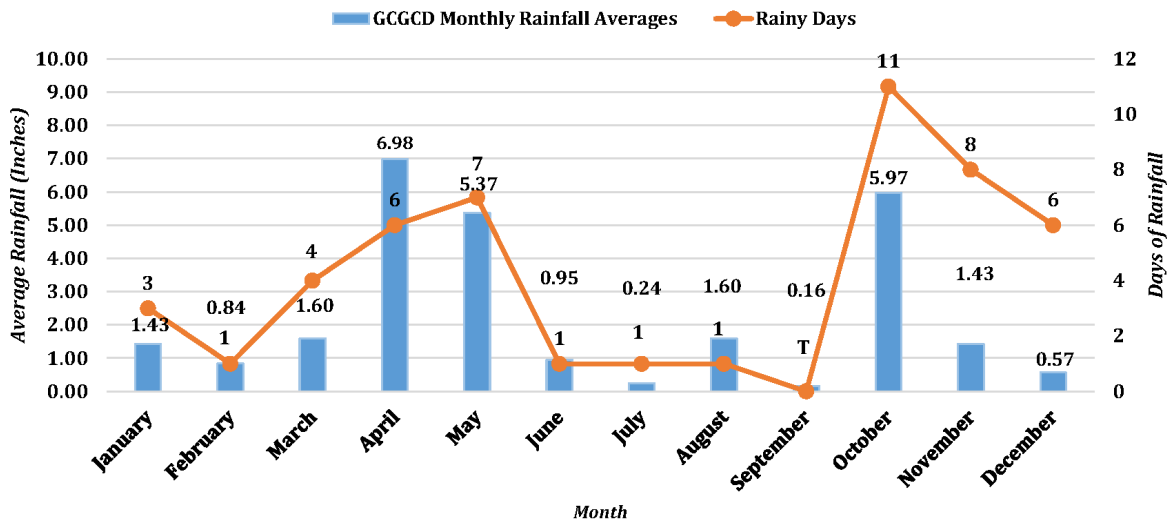
GCGCD Average Monthly Rainfall (in.) for 2023



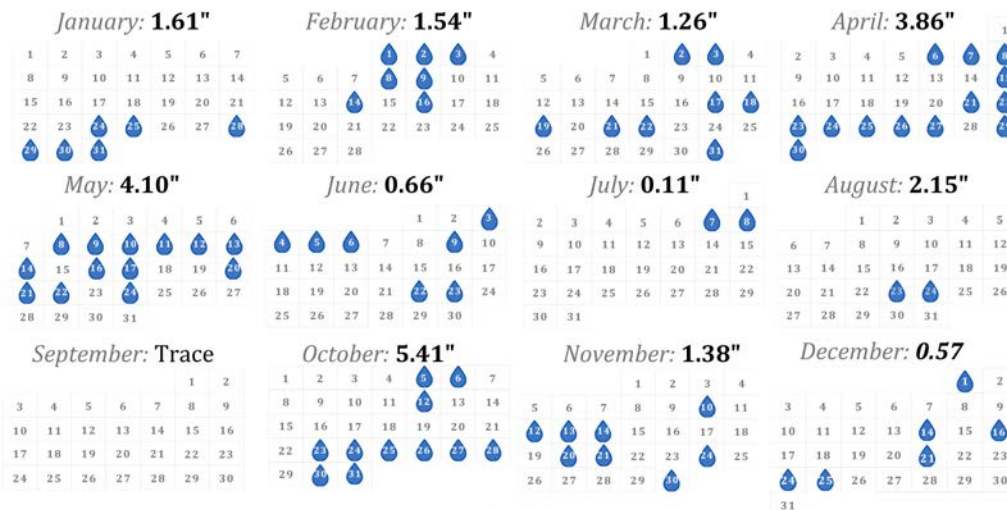
TWDB TexMesonet Station	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Total By Site
Baker Ranch ★	0.32	0.19	1.95	6.09	5.33	0.11	0.07	0.14	0.56	6.28	1.44	0.76	23.24
Diamond Half Ranch	1.91	1.27	2.88	13.95	8.62	1.26	1.04	2.10	0.41	6.95	1.34	0.63	42.36 🏆
Grones Ranch	1.94	0.96	1.61	6.27	5.27	1.00	0.06	0.51	0.05	5.78	1.29	0.46	25.20
Jones Ranch	1.73	1.51	1.90	12.08	7.63	2.03	0.20	0.34	0.00	4.78	1.36	0.19	33.75
Randolph Auxiliary*	1.71	0.65	0.91	4.01	1.61	0.57	0.03	2.10	0.01	5.20	0.99	0.57	18.36
SHWSC Office	1.50	0.79	1.34	4.29	3.83	0.95	0.18	1.52	0.03	5.99	1.20	0.70	22.32
SHWSC Plant	2.05	1.00	1.60	4.99	5.37	0.82	0.27	5.55	0.05	6.57	1.79	0.72	30.78
Strey Ranch	0.27	0.34	0.60	4.13	5.26	0.86	0.06	0.50	0.14	6.17	2.00	0.57	20.90
													Total Avg
Monthly Avg	1.43	0.84	1.60	6.98	5.37	0.95	0.24	1.60	0.16	5.97	1.43	0.57	27.11

* Maintained by the NWS/FAA

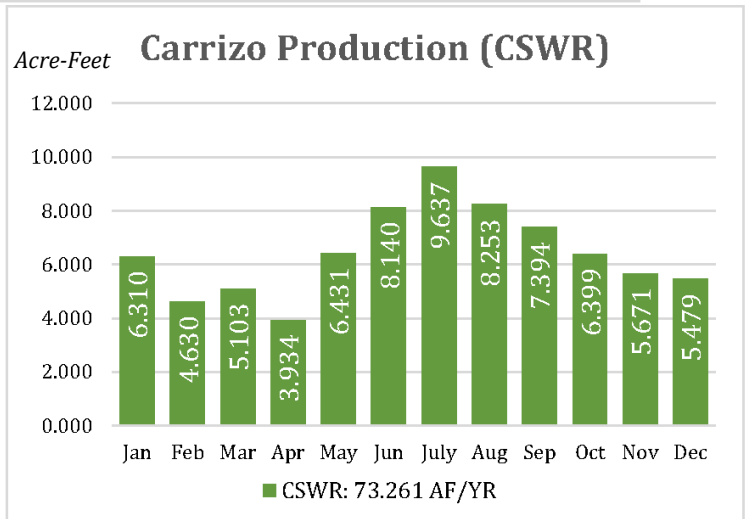
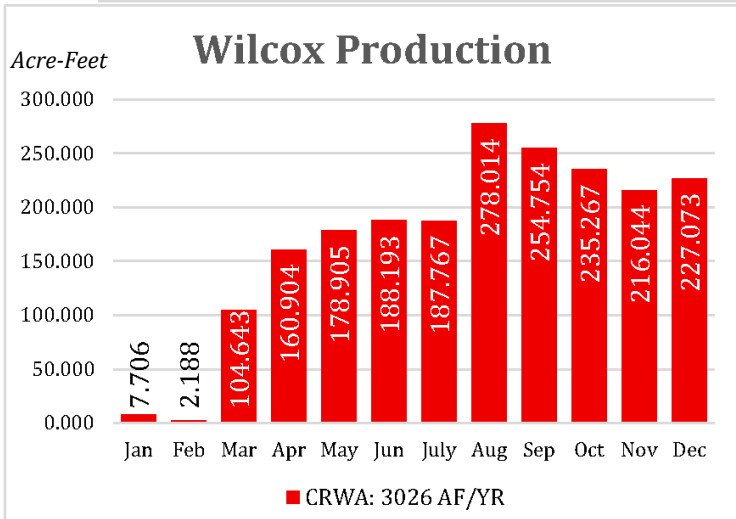
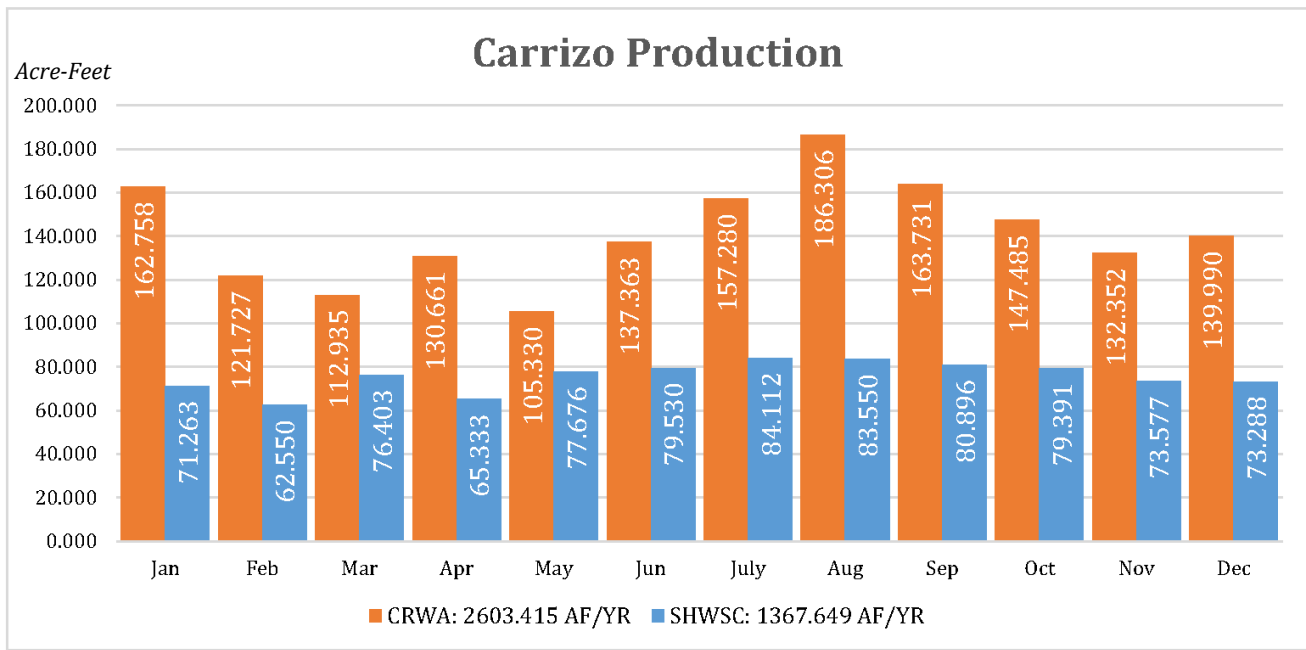
2023 GCGCD AVG Rainfall and Days of Rainfall



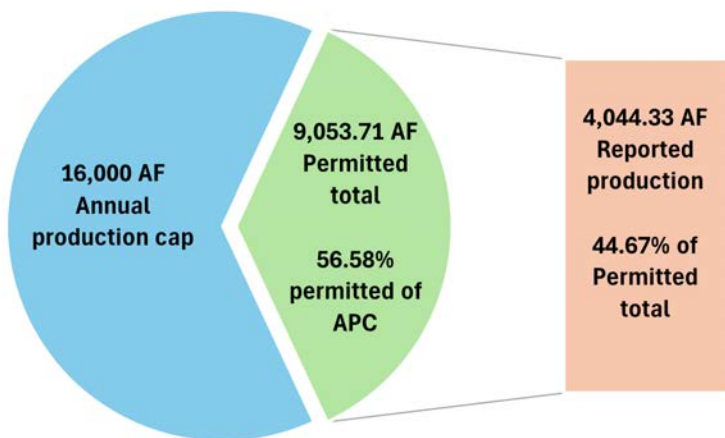
Days of Rain in Seguin for 2023



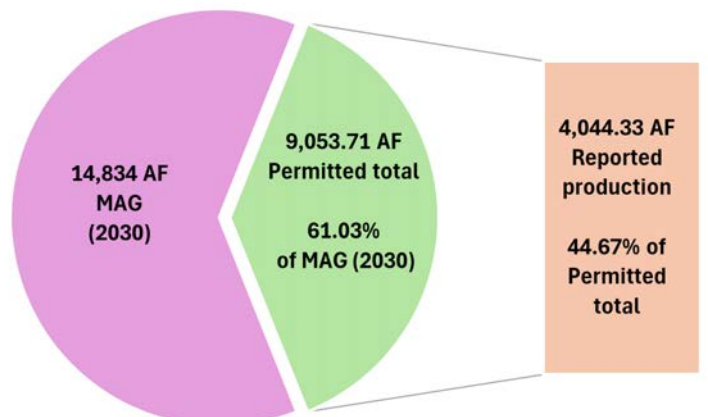
2023 Production Totals



2023 Carrizo APC vs. Permitted total / Reported production in Acre Feet



2023 Carrizo MAG (2030) vs. Permitted total / Reported production in Acre Feet



Upcoming Events

The next GCGCD Board Meeting will be held on
February 8, 2024 @ 4:30 PM

The next Region L Planning Group Meeting will be held on
February 14, 2024 at 9:30 AM via Meeting Link
or at the SAWS Customer Service Building
Room CR-145, 2800 US Highway 281 North, San Antonio, Texas 78212

The TWCA Annual Convention will be on March 6-8, 2024.
The conference will start with a Membership & Services Committee
meeting at **11am Wednesday, March 6th, 2024.**

The Texas Groundwater Association is hosting their 4th annual Geoscience Seminar in Fredericksburg at the Hill Country University Center on Friday **April 12, 2024, 8AM - 5PM!** They are preparing another wonderful lineup of experts as they highlight the recent and ongoing research of the Hickory and Ellenburger Aquifers in Central Texas. More information will be made available as TGWA finalizes the schedule and open registration.

The GCGCD will have a booth at Seguin's 14th annual Earth Day Festival in Central Park on **Saturday, April 27th!** Come see how Seguin can become a healthier, more sustainable community. Businesses, schools, organizations and industry will show how to protect the environment and conserve natural resources. Musical groups will perform in the bandstand and activities for children will add to the festivities.

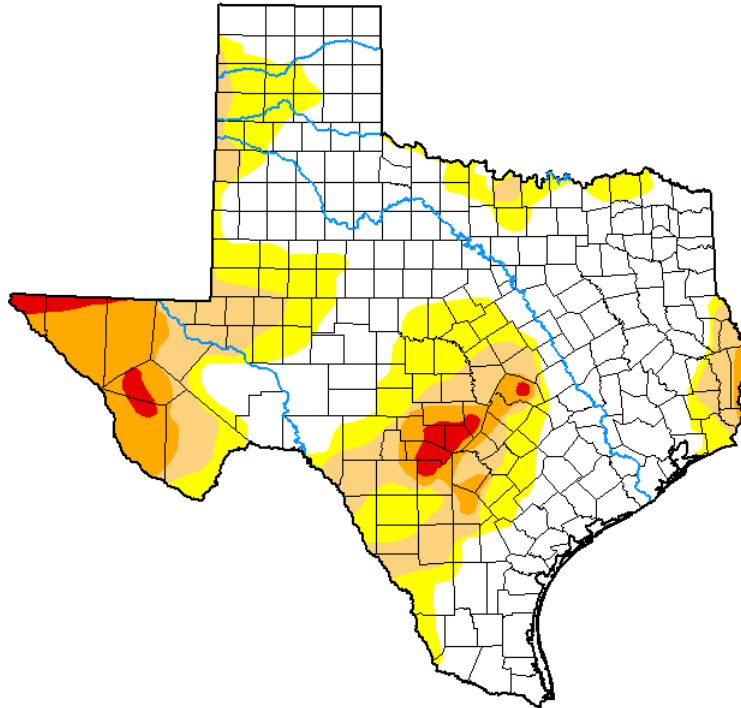


Groundhog Day is right around the corner! This Friday, February 2nd, watch Punxsutawney Phil as he predicts whether Winter will persist or if Spring will come early.

Drought Update & Water Conservation

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

January 30, 2024
(Released Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

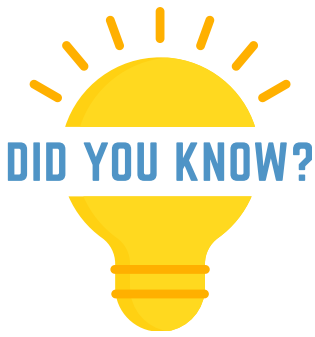
Winter Conservation Tip!

Disconnect Your Hoses

If you know that the temperature is about to drop, make sure any hoses around your property are disconnected. When water freezes, it expands and may damage your hose. What you really want to prevent is leaving a hose connected to an outdoor faucet. If that freezes, it “may even lead to water pressure problems in the water lines or pipes of your home.”. Make sure to prevent the waste of water through leaks and save yourself money and trouble by disconnecting your hoses!



[Source](#)



[Source](#)



2024 is a Leap Year! Thursday, February 29th will be added to the 2024 calendar, but do you know exactly why we have leap years? One orbit of Earth around the Sun takes approximately 365.25 days—a little more than our Gregorian calendar’s round number of 365. Because the calendar does not account for the extra quarter of a day that the Earth requires to complete its orbit around the Sun, it doesn’t completely align with the solar year. Because of this .25 difference, our calendar gradually gets out of sync with the seasons. Adding an extra day, AKA a “leap day,” to the calendar every four years brings the calendar in line and therefore realigns it with the seasons.

Did you know that because of this extra day, a leap year has 366 days instead of 365? Which means that a leap year does not end and begin on the same day of the week as a non-leap year would!



**Guadalupe County
Groundwater Conservation District**

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