



GCGCD NEWS



SPRING 2020 Newsletter

Earth Day 50th Anniversary

April 22nd marked the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

First celebrated in 1970, Earth Day was established to support a change in human behavior and policy and help promote efforts to protect the environment. Earth Day has served as an important reminder to continue our efforts in educating the public and participating in environmentally conscious practices.

Earth Day has served as a catalyst in the creation of major environmentally focused legislation such as the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act.

As we continue to promote awareness and find solutions towards reducing pollution and protecting ecosystems around the world, Earth Day serves as an opportunity to commit for cleaner air and water for future generations on this planet. Help keep our planet healthy – do your part to Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle!

Happy Earth Day Planet!!



WWW.GCGCD.ORG



Visit our website for more information!



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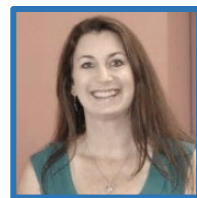


Social Distancing – the “New Norm” - GCGCD Remotely here for you!

First and foremost, my hope is that everyone is reading this newsletter from the comfort and safety of their home in the best of health. The entire world has been impacted by this pandemic. All we can do at this point is to continue to heed the government and health official's warnings and practice responsible hygiene and social graces.

This is an odd time in our world. It has given us a unique opportunity to learn to connect in a very different way. Some of us are becoming more tech savvy – as we transition into a world of telephone/video conferences - adjusting to new ways of working from home and staying connected.

Although the District office doors are temporarily closed - I want to ensure our District members that we are conducting business remotely - we remain available to the public via phone or [e-mail](#) and we are continuing to serve the needs of the District to the best of our ability during these difficult times. Visit our [website](#) to stay connected on District business.



*Kelley Vickers
General Manager*



Stay Informed – Stay Safe – Stay Healthy!!

Kelley



[CDC](#)

<https://gov.texas.gov/>

Conservation tips: What can you do at home to help Conserve Water?

Did you know? - The United States uses 349 Billion Gallons of freshwater every day!
(That's 1,058,766 Acre Feet)

WAYS TO REDUCE WATER USE AT HOME

1. Run laundry and dishwashers only with full loads.



2. Take shorter showers.



3. Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth, shaving or washing dishes.

4. Check pipes, toilets, and faucets for leaks.



5. Use low flow devices for faucets and toilets.



6. Wash your car using a bucket of water instead of a hose.

7. Use a broom to clean driveways and sidewalks instead of a hose.



Source:





2020 Carrizo Saturated Thickness Model Water Rights Available



Each year, changes to property ownership, property divisions/additions, parcel identification codes and/or any property boundary changes are updated by the Guadalupe County Appraisal District (GCAD) into a Certified Tax Roll file. In January 2020, the Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District (GCGCD, the ‘District’) obtained the 2019 Certified Tax Roll from GCAD. That file was then imported into the District’s Saturated Thickness Model to assign Carrizo water rights - reflecting the GCAD updated property parcel ownership.

As per GCGCD Rule 5.4 (d) – “The District is responsible for calculating and regularly updating, by a computer program using the most reliable hydrological data available, the approximate total volume of saturated Carrizo sand within the District”.

The GCGCD Carrizo Model calculates:

Volume as Legal Acreage* X Saturated Thickness

*Legal acreage is determined by the GCAD and any discrepancies with acreage owned or property parcel identification must be directed to the GCAD.

Percent Total Volume is calculated by dividing the Volume by 14,000,000

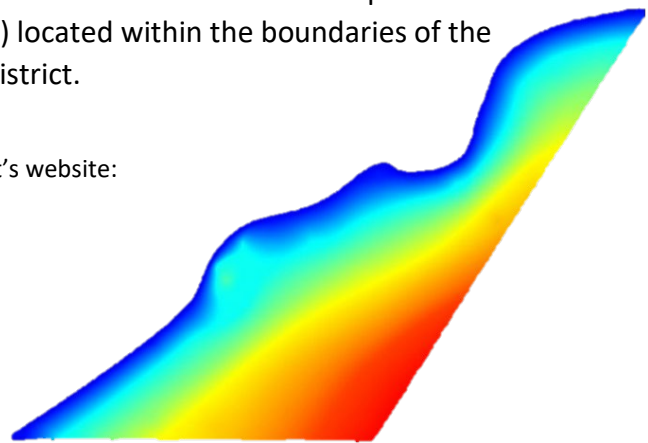
Water Rights are calculated by multiplying the Percent Total Volume by 14,000 AF/YR

The Annual Production Cap (APC) will remain 14,000 AF/YR as set September 1, 2018.

The water rights file contains only the properties situated over the Carrizo Aquifer with saturated sands (water rights greater than 0.001) located within the boundaries of the Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District.

The 2020 Carrizo Water Rights file is posted on the District’s website:

<http://gcgcd.org/water-rights.html>





Beckwith

January 2020 Water Level Report



By William B. Klemt, P.G.

Monitoring of the water-table portion of the Carrizo and Wilcox aquifers in the outcrop is important because the District’s Desired Future Conditions (DFC) are based on water-table declines in the outcrop. Beginning January 2020, an additional table has been added to the monitoring report to include water levels of the recently drilled DFC monitor wells in Guadalupe County compared to year 2013.

The DFC table features: the estimated water level below the measuring point (MP) beginning 2013; the estimated saturated thickness of the aquifer in 2013; the allowable water level drawdown and water level in order to meet the District’s 2070 DFC; and current water levels and water level change from estimated January 2013 water level. Analysis indicates for the period January 2013 – January 2020, the Carrizo monitor wells declined an average of -4.11 feet (-0.59 feet/year) – the Wilcox monitor wells average change was 1.0 feet (+0.14 feet/year).

SSLGC PLANT TOUR DAY

On March 6th, members of GCGCD board and staff joined Amber Beard, SSLGC General Manager and staff on a guided tour of the SSLGC water treatment facility in Gonzales County. The tour served as an introduction to what the proposed SSLGC Guadalupe Project would look like, although on a much different scale. The Gonzales plant is capable of treating ~34 million gallons of water a day - whereas the Guadalupe facility will be constructed to treat ~6 million gallons of water per day.

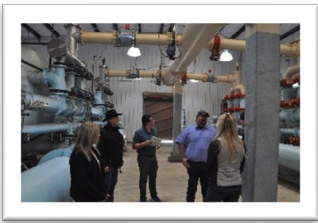
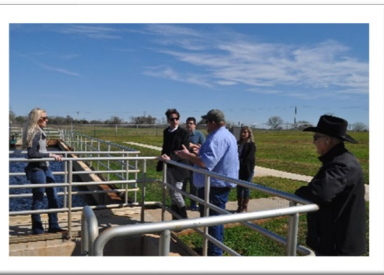
A very BIG **THANK YOU** to SSLGC for graciously organizing this event for the benefit of the District. And thank you to the GCGCD board members able to attend.



Derek Wesch and Amber Beard

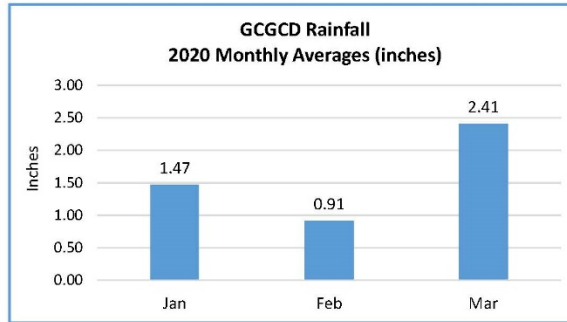


GCGCD board & staff learning about the SSLGC facility





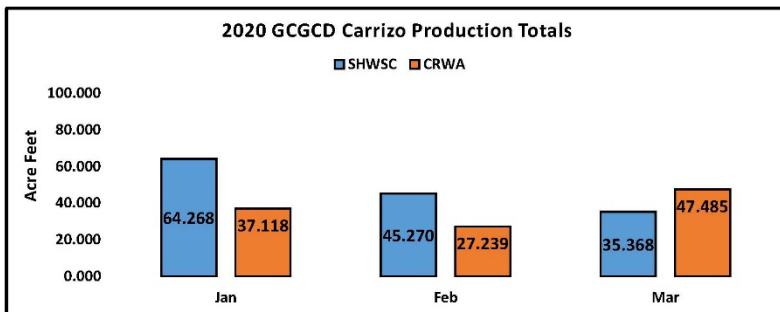
GCGCD MONTHLY RAINFALL AVERAGES FOR 2020



Annual Average through March 31st = 4.80"

Location	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Total
													By Site
Baker - TexMesonet	1.97	1.36	3.89										7.22
Diamond Half Ranch - TexMesonet	1.94	1.03	3.16										6.13
Grones - TexMesonet	1.57	1.12	2.77										5.46
Jones - TexMesonet	1.61	1.27	2.89										5.77
Kallies Ranch Hwy 90 A	0.78	1.01	3.11										4.90
SHWSC Office - TexMesonet	1.86	0.84	3.14										5.84
SHWSC Plant - TexMesonet	1.31	*0.44	*3.21										1.31
Strey - TexMesonet	0.75	0.68	0.32										1.75
													GCGCD Total Avg.
Monthly Avg (inches)	1.47	0.91	2.41										4.80

GCGCD January-March 2020 Carrizo Production



Global Warming?

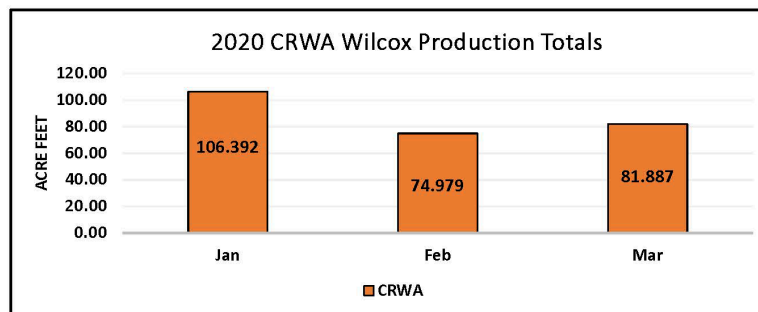
The contiguous U.S. has warmed 2.4 degrees since 1970, when we held the first Earth Day.

Making environmentally friendly choices makes a difference.

Source: The Weather Channel



GCGCD January-March 2020 Wilcox Production



Brush Management as a Water Enhancement Strategy

Brush management is the practice of removing species of woody plants considered to be invasive and harmful to their environment. The goal of brush management is to achieve optimal control over the targeted woody plant species through removal and reduction. It can be accomplished in three methods: mechanical (bulldozer), chemical (herbicide), and biological (livestock). To learn methods on how to get rid of certain invasive plant species, head to Texas Natural Resource Server for more information (<https://texnat.tamu.edu/about/brush-busters/>). If you are a landowner, brush management can bring forth many benefits for your property and surrounding environments. These benefits include:

- Restoring the balance of natural plants in the area.
- Encourage growth of desired vegetation for livestock.
- Protecting soils and limiting erosion.
- Enhance stream flow and allow for greater recharge of groundwater.
- Enhance wildlife habitats.
- Decrease fuel for potential wildfires.

To encourage landowners to invest more into brush management, federal and state agencies have created several programs to incentivize landowners to participate in brush control. Agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) with the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) within the USDA offer numerous programs that can benefit landowners to invest in brush management. The following programs are in place to help improve water quality and local wildlife habitats:

- [Agricultural Water Enhancement Program](#) (AWEP)
- [Water Supply Enhancement Program](#) – (WSEP)
- [Conservation Reserve Program](#) – (CRP)
- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) – (EQIP)

TEXAS STATE
Soil & Water
CONSERVATION BOARD



Monitor Well to be drilled in the Carrizo Outcrop



In fulfillment of a special permit condition between GCGCD & Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corporation (SSLGC), the District posted an Invitation to Bid for a monitor well to be drilled in the Carrizo Aquifer outcrop area off Hwy 90A. During the April board meeting, the District board of directors awarded the bid to GeoProjects, International, Inc. The data collected from this monitor well will aid the District in understanding aquifer characteristics and help the District in meeting the goals of the Desired Future Conditions.





811 (Call Before You Dig)



Texas 811 is a public service offered for sites set for digging to locate/identify any potential buried utilities such as telephone, gas, sewer, water lines or cables. Anyone can request a ticket by dialing 811 or online through the Texas811.com Portal website (<https://txgc.texas811.org/geocall/portal>). Texas 811 works with utility companies to prepare potential digging sites by marking the lines outlined in a call or request. These requests can alert nearby utility companies and prevent unintended consequences such as property damage, service outage, or injury. For your request, you will need to provide information on the work, the location, and the company you work for (if applicable). Locators are placed on the excavation site using colored flags for different types of lines or cables. A two-business day wait (excluding holidays) between calling in the request and digging the site allows for utility companies to travel to your worksite. Underground utilities can be marked with flags or paint on the ground. If a line is damaged, please contact 811 immediately to detail the damage done.

Be Safe - Know what's underneath BEFORE you dig!

NOTICE OF 2021 IPP SUBMISSION TO TWDB – PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN

Drafts of the 2021 Regional Water Plan are now available for review and public comment. At the end of the 5-year planning cycle, TWDB will develop the State Water Plan. Click on the links below to read the draft and learn more about how to submit public comments.

[2021 Draft Regional Water Plan](#)



Schedule of public hearings on the 2021 Initially Prepared Plans (IPP) draft plans may be found by clicking [HERE](#). *Due to COVID-19, meetings will be held via teleconference.*

Please contact the Regional Water Planning Group for more information on their public comment period. Comments should be submitted directly to the planning group.

For Region L - written comments must be submitted to San Antonio River Authority (SARA) by no later than 5:00 PM July 20, 2020. For more info cheller@sara-tx.org

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 2020 Annual Monitoring Network Plan

The draft *2020 Annual Monitoring Network Plan* provides information on the current TCEQ ambient air monitoring network established to determine compliance with federal monitoring requirements.

[Click here](#) to view the **2020 Annual Monitoring Network Plan**

Written comments about the draft *2020 Annual Monitoring Network Plan* may be submitted any time during the 30-day public comment period until 5:00 P.M. on May 14, 2020.

The final *2020 Annual Monitoring Network Plan* and a response to all comments will be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency and posted on the TCEQ webpage on July 1, 2020.





TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Texas Water
Development Board

Rain Catcher Award Nominations Open

The Texas Rain Catcher Award is a rainwater harvesting competition and recognition program that promotes the technology, educates the public, and recognizes excellence in the application of rainwater harvesting systems in Texas. The competition is open to individuals, companies, organizations, municipalities, and other local and state governmental entities. Entries are due June 30. [Click here](#) for more information.

TAGD Awarded Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Partnership Award

On January 9, TAGD was honored for its members' exemplary support of the 4-H Water Ambassadors program. Since the program's inception in 2016, TAGD Member GCDs have provided service opportunities for the youth ambassadors, led tours and presentations for the summer leadership academies, and contributed sponsorship support totaling over \$100,000. This is a wonderful program to help grow the next generation of water leaders in which GCDs have played a crucial role. Thank you for Texas A&M AgriLife for this honor, and to TAGD's GCD members who support the 4-H Water Ambassadors program! [Click here](#) to view the article about the award.

TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS



2020
TEXAS GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Hyatt Regency Hill Country • San Antonio, TX • September 1-3

The 9th Annual Texas Groundwater Summit is continuing as planned. Health and safety of all is priority – Conference organizers are closely monitoring COVID-19 and will post any updates as necessary to the [TAGD website](#). To Register [CLICK HERE](#)

The 8th Annual Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Clean Up

(Due to COVID-19 postponed until the Fall)

Stay posted for more information by visiting our website

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

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension organizes this event and once again, GCGCD is proud to sponsor this great cause!



Groundwater Conservation District Index (GCDI)

GCD Index is an interactive database that provides detailed information about every GCD that is a member of TAGD.



Search by:

- County, Income source (tax, fee based or both)
- Selection of board members (Elected, Appointed, or both)
- Groundwater Management Area
- Reporting Requirements
- Meter Requirements

[Enter the GCDI](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS – Update in response to COVID-19



- May 8th GMA 13 *Cancelled*
- May 14th GCGCD Board Meeting –@ teleconference info posted on [website](#)
- May 27-28th TAGD Regular Business Meeting, *Cancelled* - Virtual Conference pending
- June 11th GCGCD Board Meeting –@ check [website](#) for updates
- June 17-19th TWCA – Mid-Year Conference, Moody Gardens Galveston *Cancelled* [Info](#)
- July 30th Region L – Virtual meeting scheduled

GCGCD Board of Directors & Staff

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District 1 - Ron Naumann - Director
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District 2 - Hilmar Blumberg - Secretary
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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

William B. Klemt - Consulting Geologist
bill_klemt@gcgcd.org



A chocolatier in Tosca, Italy made the tallest chocolate Easter egg ever on record in April 2011. The massive chocolate Easter egg was 34 feet tall, weighed 15,873 pounds, and had a circumference of 64 feet at its widest point. That’s higher than a double decker bus and heavier than a full-grown elephant!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/32106910>

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