



GCGCD NEWS



GCGCD RULES AMENDED

December 2019 – After proper notice, public comment and hearing, the GCGCD board voted to amend the District’s Rules to:

- (1) add clarifying definitions, purposes of rules, and description of water rights required for permitting;
- (2) reorganize and modify permit provisions governing metering of groundwater production, permit allocation for the Carrizo and Wilcox aquifers, and consolidation of water rights among multiple wells with consolidated permit authorization;
- (3) reclassify minor permit amendments to include permit and well ownership changes;
- (4) change permitting and hearing requirements for wells incapable of producing more than 100 gallons per minute; and
- (5) amend the well monitoring policy.

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WINTER 2019-2020 Newsletter



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Save the Date & Did you know?





OATH of OFFICE



Left to Right: **Mark Gustafson** - Newly appointed Director of District 5; **William Jones**, Treasurer, Director of District 4; **A. Robert Raetzsch**, Director of District 3; **Hilmar Starcke, III**, President, Director of District 6 and The **Honorable William Squires, III** administering the Oath of Office December 2019

This December the GCGCD Board accepted the retirement/resignation of our good friend, Director of District 5, Charlie Willmann.

Thank you for all of your years of service and dedication to the District and to the preservation and protection of this precious resource – Groundwater.



New District Seal

Join us in putting out the



for our newest Director
Mark Gustafson

Mark is a Professor in the Department of Biology and the Environmental Studies Program Director at Texas Lutheran University (TLU) here in Seguin.

He holds a Ph.D. in Zoology and a B.A. in Biology and Mathematics. He is a Steering Committee Member of the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership since 2010 and has a passion for protecting the environment.

We are very excited to have him join us in our mission to Conserve, Preserve, Protect & Prevent Waste of Groundwater. Welcome to the Team!

Notes from the GM

Happy New Year Everyone! Wow, it's already 2020! Looking back at this past year, we've accomplished a lot. We drilled nine new monitor wells in our cooperative DFC project, added to our staff, amended our Rules, expanded our Outreach Programs, and initiated research projects to better understand the aquifers which we are charged with managing – just to name a few 😊 This next year brings more exciting projects so stay tuned!
Cheers to a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to All



*Kelley Vickers
General Manager*



House Speaker Dennis Bonnen has issued interim charges for the Texas House of Representatives to consider before the 87th Texas Legislature convenes in 2021.

HB 722, which relates to the development of brackish groundwater. Monitor the designation of Brackish Groundwater Production Zones by the TWDB and the adoption of rules by groundwater conservation districts for the production of brackish groundwater from those Zones.

Monitor the joint planning process for groundwater and the achievement of the desired conditions for aquifers by groundwater conservation districts.

read [House Interim Charges](#)

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Lt. Governor Dan Patrick issued his interim charges for the Senate committees to study in advance of the 2021 legislative session.

Future Water Supply: Examine current laws, processes, and water storage options and availability. Make recommendations promoting the state's water supply, storage, availability, valuation, movement, and development of new sources.

▫ River Authority Infrastructure: Examine the roles and responsibilities of river authorities in maintaining their managed assets including, but not limited to, dams. Evaluate the impact on the economy, water supply, and flood control due to deferred maintenance. Make recommendations to promote infrastructure stability and maintain the usability of these bodies of water.

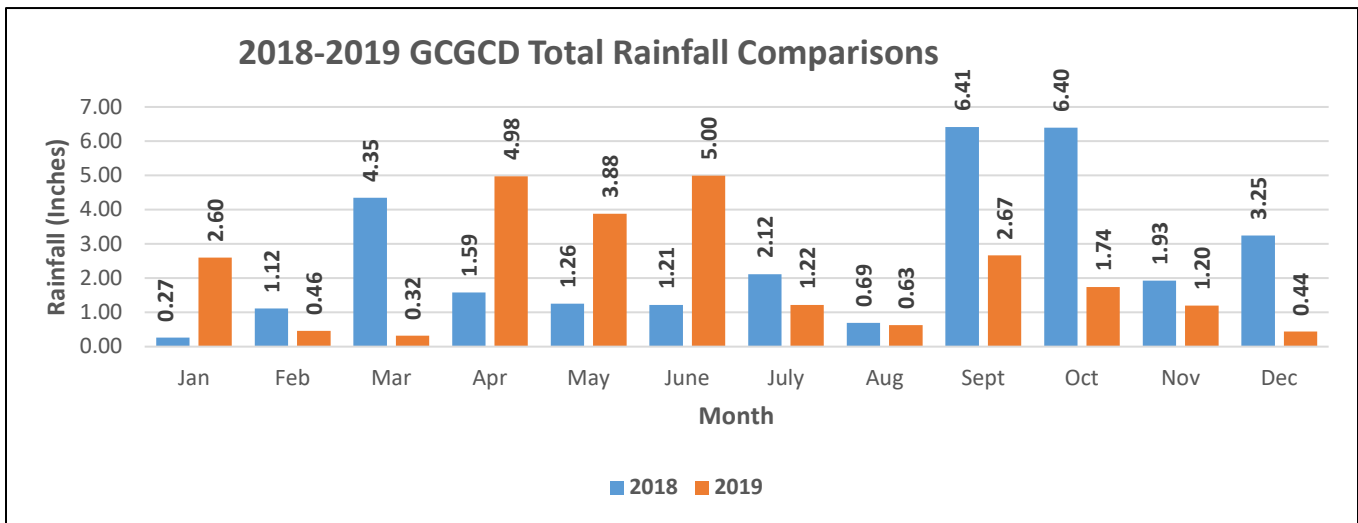
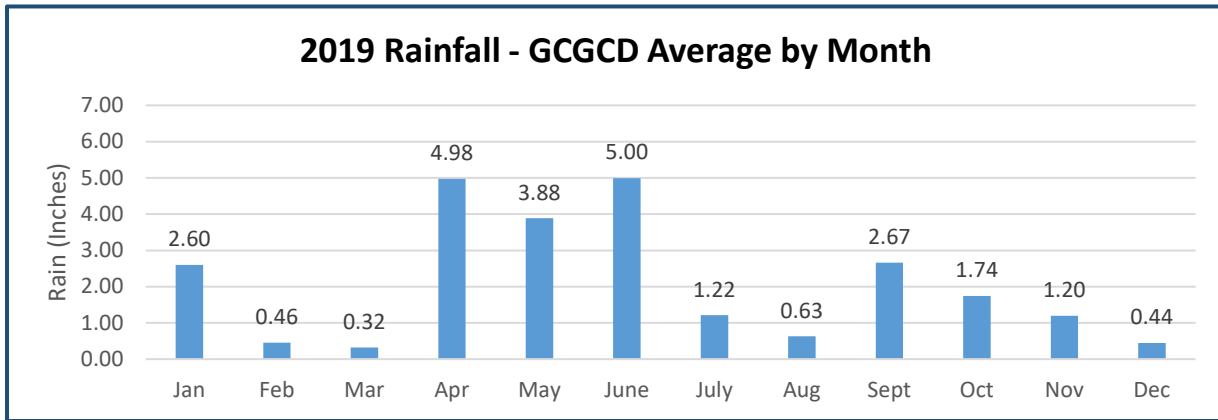
▫ Groundwater Regulatory Framework: Study the state's groundwater regulatory framework and make recommendations to improve groundwater regulation, management, and permitting.

read [Senate Interim Charges](#)

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GCGCD 2019 Annual Rainfall = 25.12"



Groundhog Day has been a tradition in the United States since 1887 when the first “prediction” from the famed groundhog Punxsutawney Phil was recorded. As the ‘prophesy’ goes - if Phil’s shadow would appear then we can expect six more weeks of winter – if no shadow, then an early spring. In total, the groundhog has cast a shadow 103 times (more winter) compared to 18 occasions of no shadow (early spring).

Have you ever wondered.... how accurate is Phil?

Well, the accuracy statistics* for the groundhog is between 35 – 40% Which means, Phil is a Natural at predicting weather patterns!

Just like the TV newscasters 😊

Click to see the [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](https://www.nws.gov)

*{eleven years missing data for some unknown reason} Source: <https://www.accuweather.com/>





Data Integration and Modeling for Desired Future Conditions (DFC)

Where are we in the process? What is next?

Finalizing pumping files – Perform aquifer equilibrium model run

Conduct additional model runs based on baseline (Examples: Additional brackish production; Injection associated with ASR)

Feb 7th GMA 13 Meeting

- Results from modeling
- Information on aquifer uses and conditions
- Information on water supply needs and management strategies

5th Cycle 2021 Regional Water Plan

- Region L meeting on January 23, 2020 discussed and expanded on comments made for Chapters 1 and 8 for the 2021 Regional Water Plan.
- Discussion on Chapter 7 of the Water Plan identifying Emergency Interconnects.
- A presentation of Chapter 5 Tables regarding Supplies and Cost of WMSs.
- An evaluation of all the WMSs under the new Water Plan and Water Supply Plans for WUGs.
- Next scheduled Region L meeting will be on February 20th.



Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership

News from The First Ever Fall Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Clean-Up

Texas Agri-Life held the first ever Fall Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Clean-Up event this past October covering 7 miles of roadway and creek bank. A total of 76 volunteers participated in the event and collected a total of 800 pounds of trash. The total amount of trash from the Fall Clean-Up was a drop from the 3,640 pounds of trash collected during the Spring Clean-Up that same year. Nonetheless, a successful outing for everyone involved. Thank you to all who support this great cause! And a special Thank You to folks at Texas Agri-Life for your continued efforts to improve the quality of Geronimo and Alligator Creeks for animals and people alike.





TEXAS GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION

to develop, promote, and protect Texas ground water

73rd ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

Was held January 21-24, 2020 in Frisco, Texas. Another great success! The trade show is an excellent opportunity to network with professionals in the groundwater industry from consultants, drillers, pump installers, geologists, and yes, even Groundwater Conservation Districts!

Need to take Continuing Education Courses? TGWA is an excellent resource for CE classes offering interesting, relevant topics every year.

TGWA is responsible for the quarterly publication of the Fountainhead – a great source for industry insights, technology trends, legislative updates and so much more. Not a member yet? [Click here to join!](#)

Last year's Geoscience seminar was such a success that Back by Popular Demand this year TGWA offered a full day Geoscience Seminar dedicated to the [Northern Section of the Trinity Aquifer](#).

Stay posted with GCGCD and TGWA to see if additional courses will be available next year!!

GCGCD Board adopted Resolution joining efforts via MOU with TDLR and TCEQ to address abandoned water wells in our District

Property owners who possess abandoned and/or deteriorated wells are the responsible party for either plugging or bringing the wells into compliance with 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 76.100 well construction specifications.



Texas Occupations Code §1901.257 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCD) outlines GCD Responsibilities:



- ❖ When a GCD receives a referral from TDLR of an abandoned and/or deteriorated well, the GCD shall respond within 14 calendar days informing the TDLR as to whether the GCD will investigate the referral
- ❖ After the GCD has been notified by the TDLR or becomes aware of an abandoned and/or deteriorated well, the GCD may:
 - Investigate the complaint of an abandoned and/or deteriorated well within the boundaries of the GCD; and
 - Enforce compliance with [Texas Occupations Code, §1901.255](#) related to landowners that have an abandoned and/or deteriorated well located on their property
- ❖ A GCD that performs an investigation related to an abandoned and/or deteriorated well referred to the GCD by TDLR shall notify the TDLR regarding the disposition of the investigation
- ❖ Any GCD enforcement under Texas Occupations Code, §1901.255 and §1901.256, may be coordinated with the TDLR
- ❖ A GCD may communicate with TDLR regarding any phase of the investigation or enforcement action



[Efforts to Address Abandoned and Deteriorated Water Wells in Texas](#)

Abandoned Water Well - continued

Do you know what happens to water wells when they stop being useful to landowners? Oftentimes those wells are unattended, left to deteriorate, inevitably abandoned. Abandoned wells are considered a public hazard for two major reasons: it opens a pathway for contaminants to infiltrate groundwater and a safety hazard for people and animals. There have been numerous incidents of animals and people falling into uncovered abandoned wells - so it is imperative to locate and plug all abandoned wells.

Learn how to plug an abandoned well on the [TDLR website](#) – hire a licensed driller!

Want to do it yourself? Here's how by TCEQ:

[Landowners Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells](#)

More information can be found on the [Texas Groundwater Protection Committee](#) website.

[Well construction and plugging specifications](#) by TDLR



Picture of a hazardous abandoned well

The [TDLR website](#) has an abundance of information about how to approach plugging abandoned wells from [online reporting](#), reviewing abandoned well [complaints](#), a [checklist](#) to determine whether a well is abandoned, and an online copy of the State of Texas Plugging Report.



Conference Dates Announced!

September 28-30, 2020

Mark your calendar!

AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, Austin

Anyone interested in the water industry will find the [Water for Texas 2020 Conference](#) an informative experience. Topics will include:

- Water science and technology
- Drought and flood
- Innovative solutions to water challenges
- Texas water policy
- Communications strategies

[View Preliminary Agenda](#)



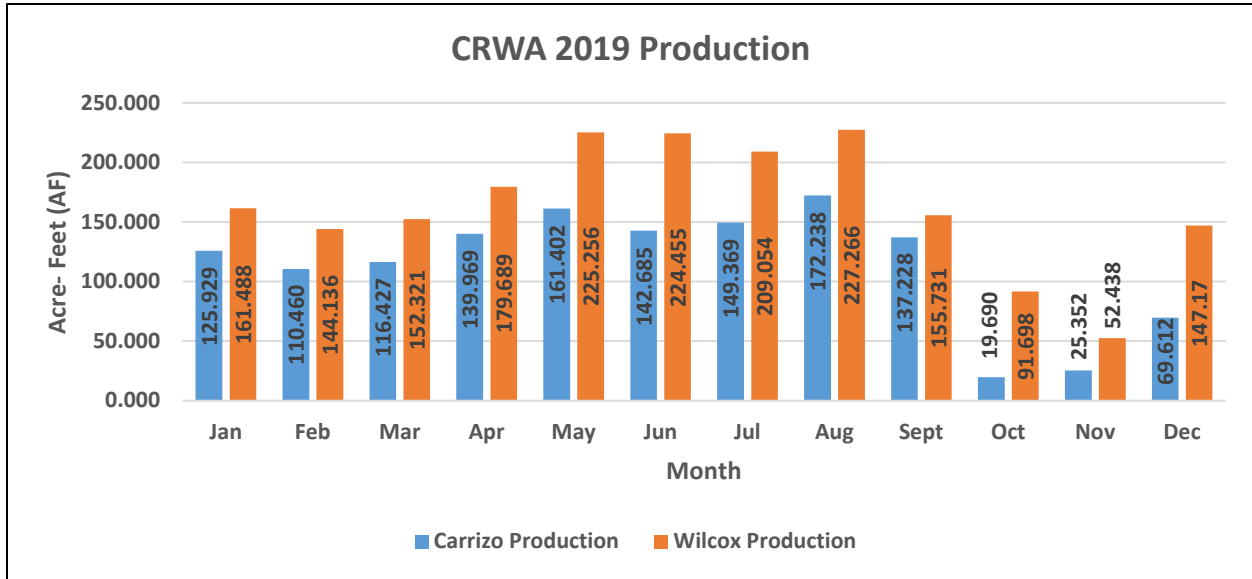
January 2019 - January 2020 Aquifer Levels Report by William B. Klemt

Water levels were measured on January 28th

Check our website: <http://gcgcd.org/monitoring-wells.html>

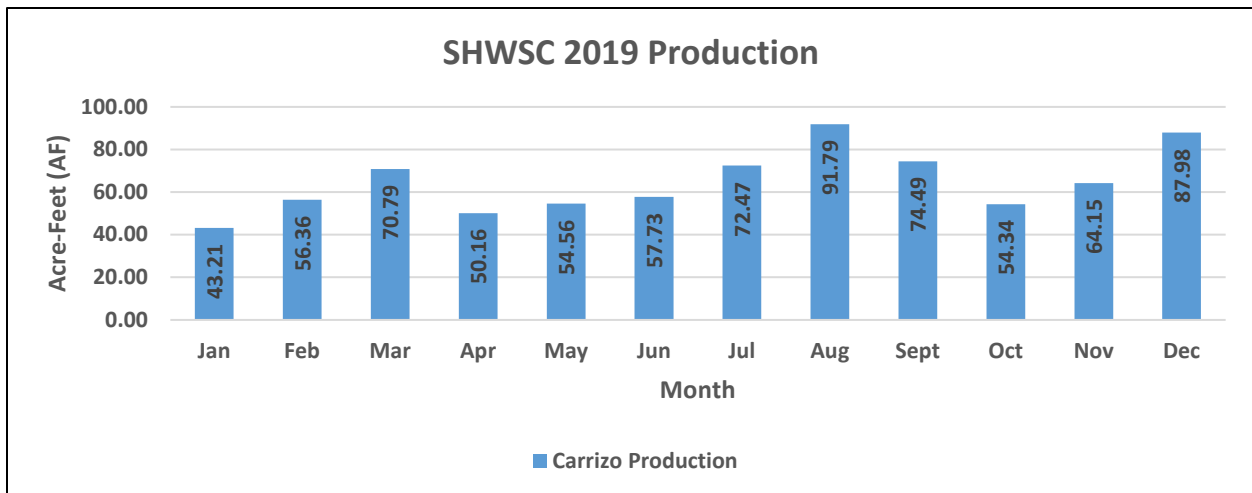
To see the full water level report soon!

2019 Production by Entity per Aquifer



CRWA Total Carrizo Production = 1,370.36 AF ~ equivalent to 48% of total permitted amount

CRWA Total Wilcox Production = 1,970.7 AF ~ equivalent to 62% of total permitted amount



SHWSC Total Carrizo Production = 778 AF ~ equivalent to 70% of total permitted

- Feb. 7th GMA 13 – EUWCD, Pleasanton, TX @ 9:30 AM
- Feb. 13th GCGCD Board Meeting, 122 W. Ireland Street @ 4:30 pm
- Feb. 20th Region L meeting – SAWS @ 9 AM
- Mar. 12th GCGCD Board Meeting, 122 W. Ireland Street @ 4:30 pm
- Apr. 9th GCGCD Board Meeting, 122 W. Ireland Street @ 4:30 pm



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2020 is a LEAP YEAR



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Did You Know?

The chances of having a birthday on a leap day are about one in 1,461 - that's roughly five million leap year babies in the world and 187,000 in the United States.

Babies born on February 29th or Leap Day are named "leaplings" or "leapers".

Only two women in recorded history have given birth three times on multiple leap days (Norway and Utah).

Depending on the country, leaplings can legally have their birthdays fall on February 28th or March 1st which is the default date recognized in the United States.

There is only one known person born on a leap day that also died on a leap day which was former Premier Sir James Milne Wilson of Tasmania (February 29, 1812- February 29, 1880).

Interesting.

Source: www.bbc.com/news