



Texas Alliance Of
Groundwater Districts

Groundwater Conservation Districts Powers & Responsibilities

Sarah Rountree Schlessinger & Ty Embrey

Milam & Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit

August 11, 2016



Texas Alliance Of
Groundwater Districts

TAGD=Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts





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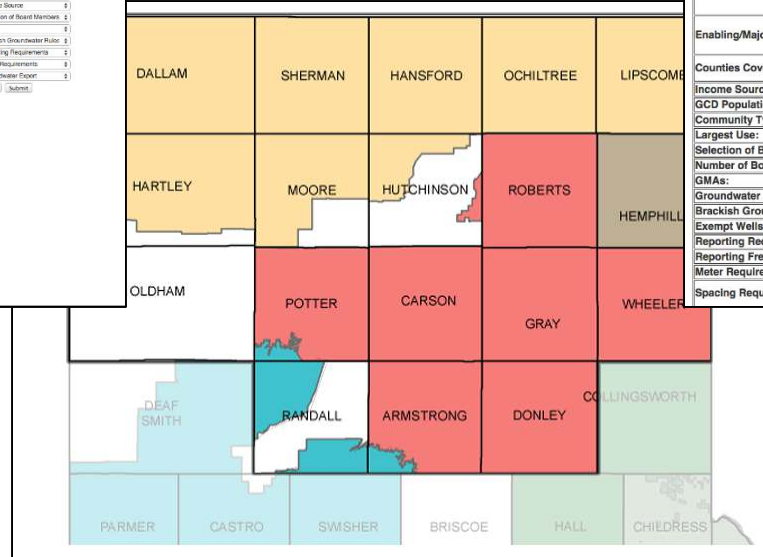
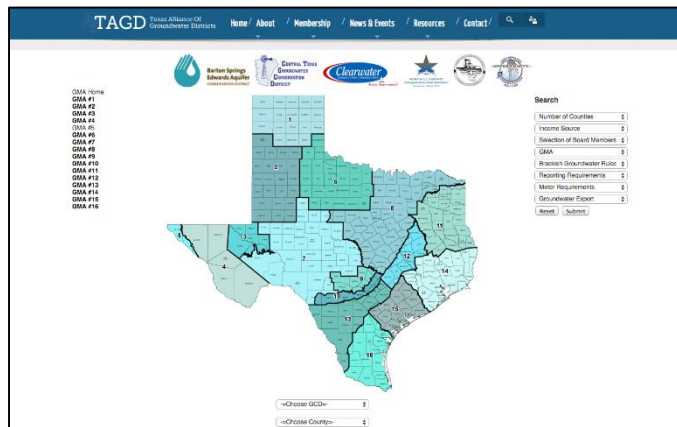
What does TAGD do?

- Educational and technical training
- Tracks legislation & agency rulemaking
- Serves as a resource for districts, the public, lawmakers, and state agencies
- Facilitates communication among GCDs
- Collects data on GCDs



TAGD Texas Alliance Of Groundwater Districts

TAGD's GCD Index



TAGD Texas Alliance Of Groundwater Districts	
Home / About / Membership / News & Events / Resources / Contact /	
North Plains Groundwater Conservation District	
Contact:	Steven Walther General Manager 603 East First Street Dumas, Texas 79029 (800) 935-6401 http://www.npgd.org/
Enabling/Major Legislation:	Acts 1955, 54th R.S., ch. 498, General and Special Laws of Texas; Acts 1965, 69th R.S., ch. 63, General and Special Laws of Texas; Acts 1969, 68th R.S., ch. 760, General and Special Laws of Texas; Acts 1999, 76th R.S., ch. 1152, General and Special Laws of Texas
Counties Covered:	All of Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Hansford, Sherman and Dallam Counties; parts of Hartley, Moore, and Hutchinson Counties
Income Source:	Both
GCD Population:	50,001-100,000
Community Type:	Rural
Largest Use:	Agriculture
Selection of Board Members:	Elected
Number of Board Members:	7
GMAs:	GMA 1
Groundwater Export:	Yes
Brackish Groundwater Rules:	No (encompassed within current regulations of all groundwater)
Exempt Wells:	Chapter 36 exemptions only
Reporting Requirements:	Yes, for all permitted wells
Reporting Frequency:	Annually
Meter Requirements:	Yes, for all permitted wells
Spacing Requirements:	Wells must be at least 100 yards from property lines; additional spacing requirements are based on well capacity.



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What does Lloyd Gosselink do?



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GCDs

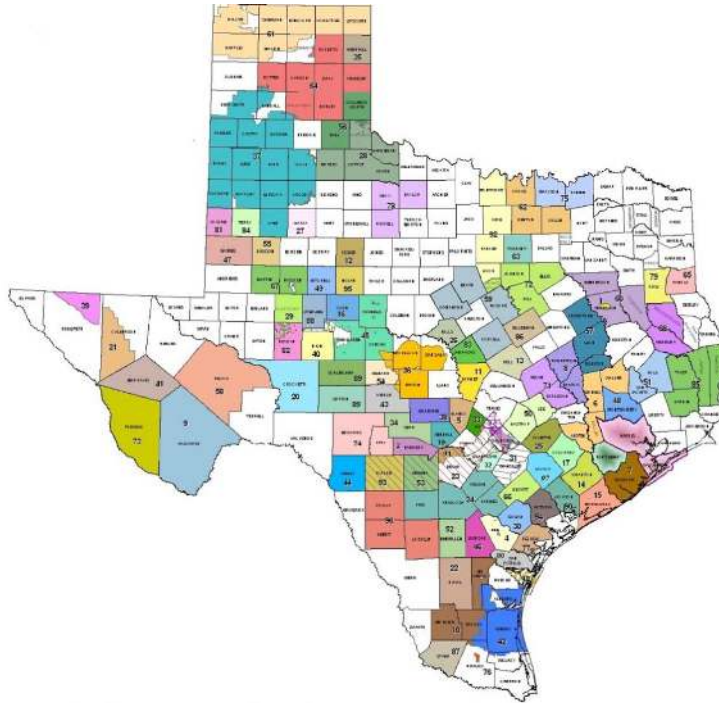
GCD Power & Responsibilities

Issues & Challenges



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GCD=Groundwater Conservation Districts





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Operational Components of a GCD

Well
Permitting and
Enforcement

Well
Monitoring

Public
Education

Research &
Science

Regional
Planning

Water Quality

TAGD

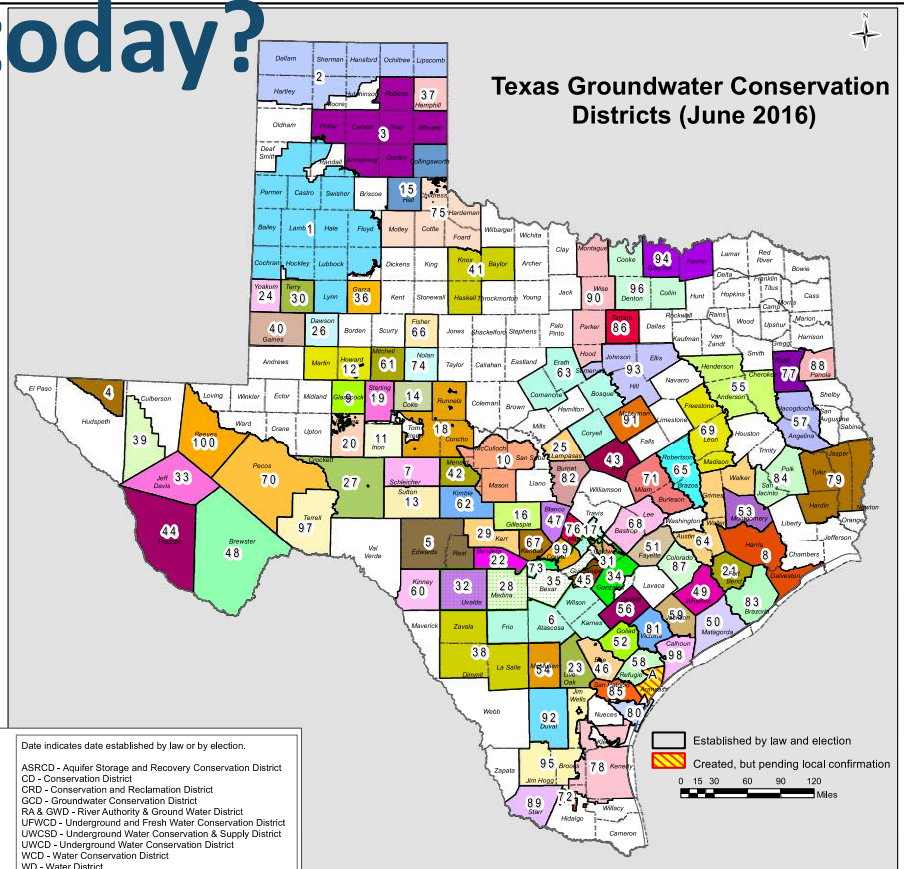
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Where are GCDs today?

- 1 High Plains UWCD No. 1 - 9/29/1951
- 2 North Plains GCD - 1/2/1950
- 3 Panhandle GCD - 1/21/1956
- 4 Hudspeth County UWCD No. 1 - 10/5/1957
- 5 Real-Edwards C and R District - 5/30/1959
- 6 Evergreen UWCD - 8/30/1965
- 7 Plateau UWC and Supply District - 3/4/1974
- 8 Harris-Galveston Subsidence District - 4/23/1975
- 9 Glasscock GCD - 8/22/1981
- 10 Hickory UWCD No. 1 - 8/14/1982
- 11 Irion County WCD - 8/2/1985
- 12 Permian Basin UWCD - 9/21/1985
- 13 Sutton County UWCD - 4/5/1986
- 14 Coke County UWCD - 11/4/1986
- 15 Mesquite GCD - 11/4/1986
- 16 Hill Country UWCD - 8/8/1987
- 17 Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer CD - 8/13/1987
- 18 Lipan-Kickapoo WCD - 11/3/1987
- 19 Sterling County UWCD - 11/3/1987
- 20 Santa Rita UWCD - 8/19/1989
- 21 Fort Bend Subsidence District - 8/28/1989
- 22 Bandera County RA & GWD - 11/7/1989
- 23 Live Oak UWCD - 11/7/1989
- 24 Sandy Land UWCD - 11/7/1989
- 25 Saratoga UWCD - 11/7/1989
- 26 Mesa UWCD - 1/20/1990
- 27 Crockett County GCD - 1/26/1991
- 28 Medina County GCD - 8/26/1991
- 29 Headwaters UWCD - 11/5/1991
- 30 South Plains UWCD - 2/8/1992
- 31 Plum Creek CD - 5/1/1993
- 32 Uvalde County UWCD - 9/1/1993
- 33 Jeff Davis County UWCD - 11/2/1993
- 34 Gonzales County UWCD - 11/2/1994
- 35 Edwards Aquifer Authority - 7/28/1996
- 36 Garza County UWCD - 11/5/1996
- 37 Hemphill County UWCD - 11/4/1997
- 38 Wintergarden GCD - 1/17/1998
- 39 Culberson County GCD - 5/2/1998
- 40 Llano Estacado UWCD - 11/3/1998
- 41 Rolling Plains GCD - 1/26/1999
- 42 Menard County UWCD - 8/14/1999
- 43 Clearwater UWCD - 8/21/1999
- 44 Presidio County UWCD - 8/31/1999
- 45 Guadalupe County GCD - 11/14/1999
- 46 Bee GCD - 1/20/2001
- 47 Blanco-Pedernales GCD - 1/23/2001
- 48 Brewster County GCD - 11/6/2001
- 49 Coastal Bend GCD - 11/6/2001
- 50 Coastal Plains GCD - 11/6/2001
- 51 Fayette County GCD - 11/6/2001
- 52 Colorado County GCD - 11/6/2001
- 53 Lone Star GCD - 11/6/2001
- 54 McMullen GCD - 11/6/2001
- 55 Neches & Trinity Valleys GCD - 11/6/2001
- 56 Pecan Valley GCD - 11/6/2001
- 57 Pineywoods GCD - 11/6/2001
- 58 Refugio GCD - 11/6/2001
- 59 Texana GCD - 11/6/2001
- 60 Kinney County GCD - 1/12/2002
- 61 Lone Wolf GCD - 2/2/2002
- 62 Kimble County GCD - 5/3/2002
- 63 Middle Trinity GCD - 5/4/2002
- 64 Bluebonnet GCD - 11/5/2002
- 65 Brazos Valley GCD - 11/5/2002
- 66 Clear Fork GCD - 11/5/2002
- 67 Cow Creek GCD - 11/5/2002
- 68 Lost Pines GCD - 11/5/2002
- 69 Mid-East Texas GCD - 11/5/2002
- 70 Middle Pecos GCD - 11/5/2002
- 71 Post Oak Savannah GCD - 11/5/2002
- 72 Red Sands GCD - 11/5/2002
- 73 Trinity Glen Rose GCD - 11/5/2002
- 74 Wes-Tex GCD - 11/5/2002
- 75 Gateway GCD - 5/3/2003
- 76 Hays Trinity GCD - 5/3/2003
- 77 Rusk County GCD - 6/5/2004
- 78 Kenedy County GCD - 11/2/2004
- 79 Southeast Texas GCD - 11/2/2004
- 80 Corpus Christi ASRCD - 6/17/2005
- 81 Victoria County GCD - 8/5/2005
- 82 Central Texas GCD - 9/24/2005
- 83 Brazoria County GCD - 11/8/2005
- 84 Lower Trinity GCD - 11/7/2006
- 85 San Patricio County GCD - 5/12/2007
- 86 Northern Trinity GCD - 5/15/2007
- 87 Colorado County GCD - 11/6/2007
- 88 Pecos County GCD - 11/6/2007
- 89 Starr County GCD - 11/6/2007
- 90 Upper Trinity GCD - 11/6/2007
- 91 Southern Trinity GCD - 6/19/2009
- 92 Duval County GCD - 7/25/2009
- 93 Prairielands GCD - 9/1/2009
- 94 Red River GCD - 9/1/2009
- 95 Brush Country GCD - 11/3/2009
- 96 North Texas GCD - 12/1/2009
- 97 Terrell County GCD - 11/6/2012
- 98 Calhoun County GCD - 11/4/2014
- 99 Comal Trinity GCD - 6/17/2015
- 100 Reeves County GCD - 11/3/2015

Pending Confirmation

A - Aransas County GCD



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



This map was prepared by the TCEQ for display purposes only. No claims are made to the accuracy or completeness of the information shown herein nor is this map suitable for any other use. The scale and location of mapped data are approximate. The groundwater conservation district boundaries are not land survey data and may not accurately depict legal descriptions. For more information about this map, please contact TCEQ - Water Availability Division, Groundwater Planning & Assessment Team at (512) 236-4691.

Map printed June 1, 2016.



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GCDs

GCD Power & Responsibilities

Issues & Challenges



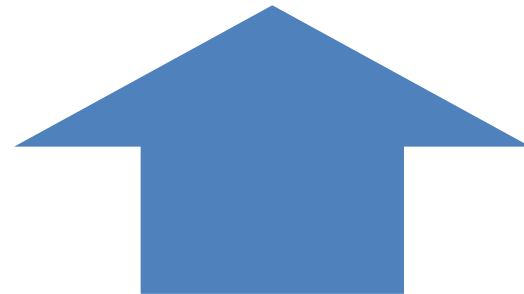
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Balancing Act



Conservation, preservation, protection,
recharging and prevention of waste of
groundwater

Rights of Landowners and
the highest practicable
level of groundwater
production





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Aquifer Management

GCD's regulate in the following ways:

- Well spacing regulations
- Acreage-based regulations
- Use-based regulations

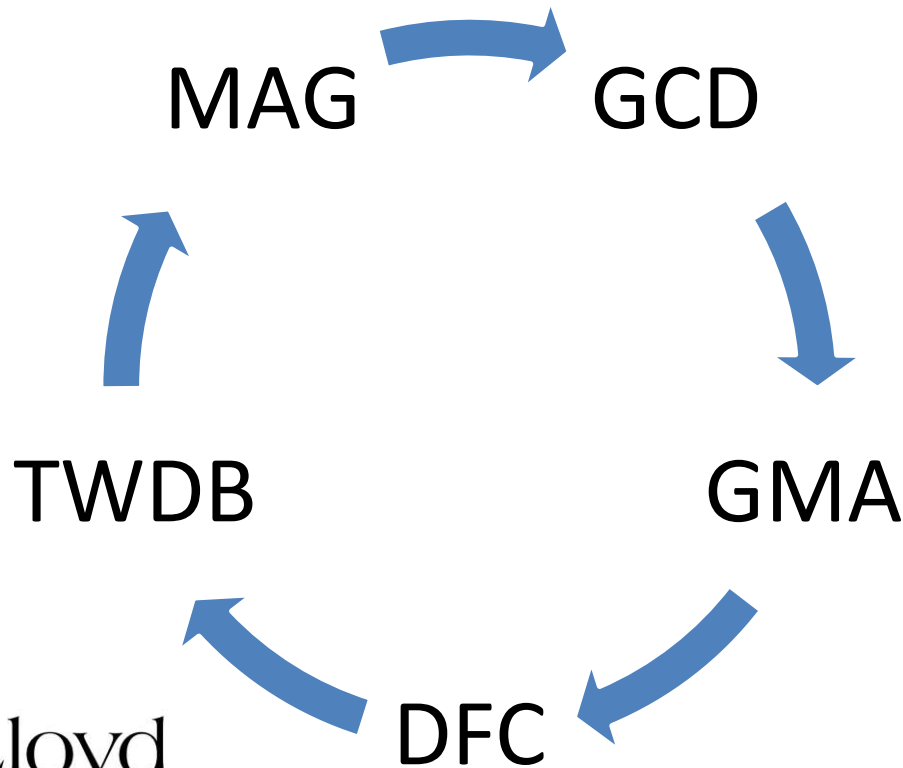
Exemptions from permitting requirements include:

- Wells specifically exempted by the board of directors
- Certain domestic and livestock wells
- Certain wells related to oil and gas or mining activities



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Joint Planning





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DFC=Desired Future Condition

- Desired future condition = quantifiable future groundwater metric (what aquifer will look like in future); overall management objective
- GCDs must implement a balancing test and consider:

Aquifer Uses
or Conditions

State Water
Plan

Hydrological
Conditions

Private
Property
Rights

Impacts on
Subsidence

Socioeconomic
Impacts

Environmental
Impacts

Feasibility of
achieving DFC

Any other
relevant
information



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Transfer of Groundwater out of a GCD

Section 36.122 of the Texas Water Code governs groundwater transfers out of a GCD

§§ (c) – GCD may not impose more restrictive permit conditions on transporters than GCD imposes on in-district users

§§ (d) – GCD may impose an export fee or surcharge on groundwater transferred out of a district



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Transfer of Groundwater cont'd

Section 36.122 cont'd

§§ (f) – GCD can consider several factors when making a decision on transfer:

- Availability of water within GCD and receiving area
- Proposed effect on aquifer
- Regional Water Plan and GCD Management Plan

§§ (q) – GCD must be fair, impartial, and nondiscriminatory



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Important Roles of GCDs

Investment in Science



GCDs are investing significant amounts of money to generate regional and site-specific hydrogeologic information

Data Collection

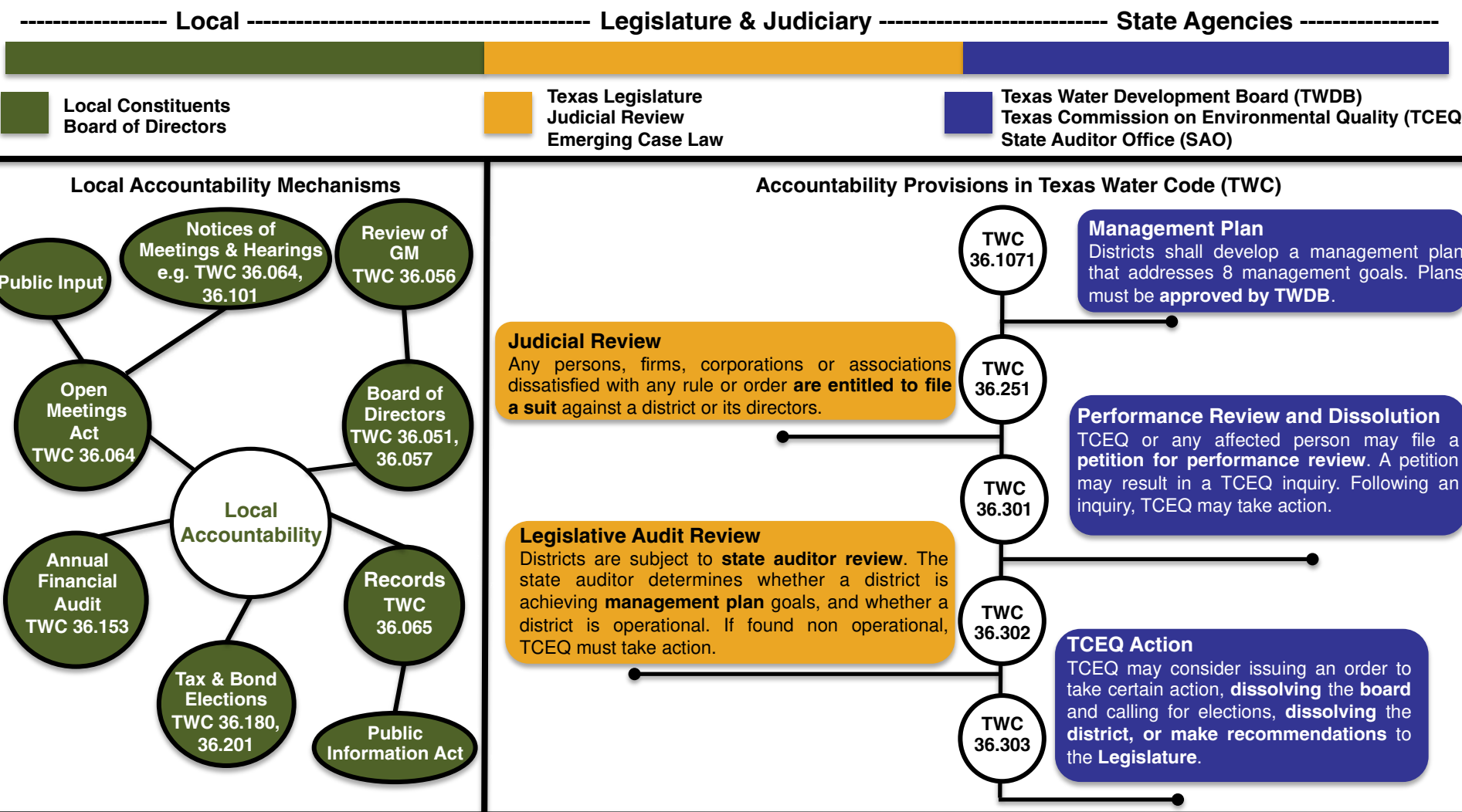


Creating baseline groundwater information that will be used for years to come

Current GCD Accountability Metrics

A review of accountability mechanisms in effect

A summary of current accountability mechanisms is provided to improve the dialogue on Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) performance. Current evaluation methods ensure statutory compliance and accountability on three levels: local, legislative & judiciary, and state agencies.



Opportunities

Consider importance of board & stakeholder education

Consider improvements to legislative audit review process

Consider difference between statutory compliance and performance metrics



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GCDs

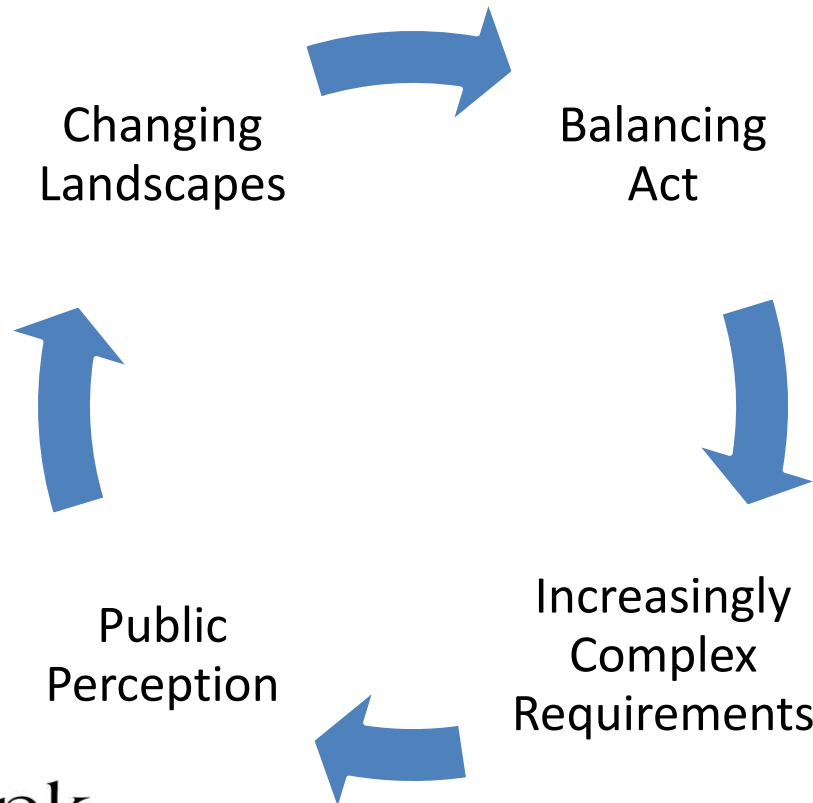
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Issues & Challenges



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Management Challenges





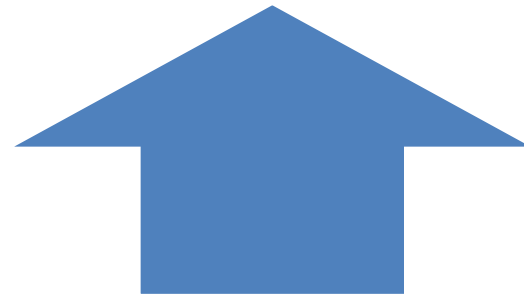
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Balancing Act



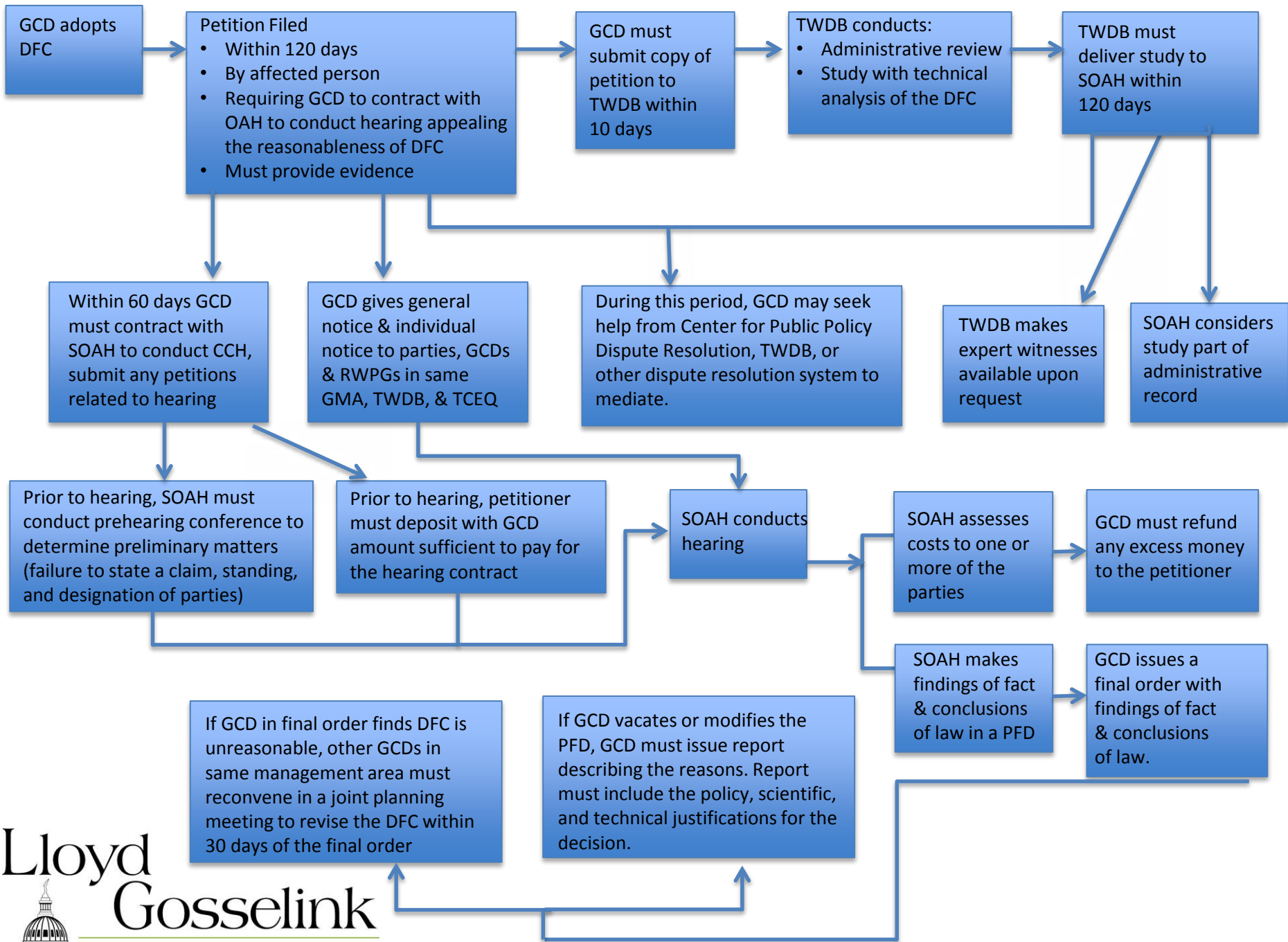
Conservation, preservation, protection,
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groundwater

Rights of Landowners and
the highest practicable
level of groundwater
production



Lloyd
Gosselink
ATTORNEYS AT LAW







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Public Perception

Best Available Science

Policy Decisions

- Population Dynamics
- Aquifer Conditions
- Forecasting
- Local Industry
- Socio Economic Considerations



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Changing Landscapes: Policy drivers in Texas Groundwater

A series of five concentric blue circles of increasing size, positioned to the left of the table, creating a ripple effect.

Legislation + Agency Rulemaking
Case Law
Emerging Technologies
Environmental Factors
Population Dynamics



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Questions?

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