

September 8, 2021

Board of Directors
Post Oak Savannah GCD
ADDRESS
Milano, TX

RE: GMA-12 Proposed Desired Future Conditions

Dear President Youngblood and members:

The Water Defenders Coalition, comprised of Environmental Stewardship and Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund, appreciates Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District's position that management strategies, policies, and rules of individual districts in GMA-12 should form not only the framework for local control of groundwater, but also for developing desired future conditions for that district. Specifically, your position recognizes each district's different approaches for establishing DFCs, demonstrating compliance with DFCs, and managing groundwater to achieve a DFC. As stated in your July 14, 2021 position paper, "[A]ttempting to give reason to GMA 12's rejection of the POSGCD-suggested solution supports the notion that the end goal of the 3rd joint planning cycle is more about developing precedents for enforcing an unwritten rule of including the undefined term 'known pumping' into GMA methods used to develop DFCs together with an idea that such undefined term is perpetual rather than adopting DFCs that assist all Districts with achieving their management goals."

We further agree with your assessment that GMA-12's reliance on Run S-12 of the Groundwater Availability Model also fails to comply with Texas Water Code §36.108 (d) requirements to consider all nine factors enumerated in that section, which include the socioeconomic impacts as well as impacts to the interest and rights in private property. We also assert that GMA-12's approach fails to allocate water to provide for conservation and protection from the impacts that the best available science -- the GMA-12 GAM -- predicts will occur if groundwater pumping is not restrained by DFCs that protect outflows to surface waters.

Our coalition agrees with POSGCD that the process currently being used by GMA-12 results in DFC that must change as a function of changes in the undefined and undocumented universe of 'known pumping', rather than setting DFCs that comply with Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, and that take into account individual district's management goals and needs.

To have an opportunity to revisit and revise the proposed DFCs for any formation of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer, it is necessary that two of the five groundwater conservation districts in GMA-12 reject the proposed DFCs, thereby sending them back for revision. For the reasons described below, we are requesting that Post Oak Savannah GCD assist our efforts to adopt revised DFCs in January 2022 that reject the DFCs for the Carrizo and Wilcox Group (Calvert Bluff, Simsboro and Hooper formations). A vote by POSGCD to reject the proposed DFC on broader grounds than you advanced for the Carrizo Aquifer in POSGCD in your July 14 position paper is warranted.

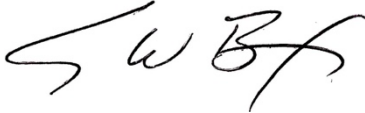
We base our request not only on our recognition of the need to help maintain the historic method of developing and managing the Carrizo aquifer DFCs in GMA-12, but also on the new data we are providing in the attached document. The same principles POSGCD requests be considered, need to be applied to the Wilcox Group as well. The attached document -- *Supplemental Comments to Post Oak Savannah GCD Board of Directors Regarding Revised Desired Future Condition* -- contains new information regarding GAM runs that

have been conducted by George Rice to provide a method for estimating the availability of groundwater to be produced on a sustained basis while protecting outflows to surface waters. In addition, we have provided estimates of the number of domestic and livestock wells that are likely to be affected in each of the subject aquifer formations modelled in the GAM2020 Run S-12.

This new information, which is critical to satisfying the requirements of Chapter 36, is being provided to demonstrate a recommended methodology for developing DFCs that do not fluctuate with changes in pumping (are stable), and are protective of the long-term management policies of all the districts. Environmental Stewardship has advocated for surface water data to be gathered by the Districts within GMA-12 over the last 15 years. SAWDF, formed in 2016, has continued the efforts of stakeholders in the Lost Pines District to have private property rights in groundwater, rural wells, and local economies protected. Since the member districts of GMA-12 have not developed these data, we have undertaken to provide -- at our cost as stakeholders -- examples of how these studies can be applied throughout the Management Area.

We hope to be able to discuss our work and our findings with all of you at the September 14, 2021, board meeting, and are requesting time on the agenda for this discussion.

Respectfully requested,



Steve Box, President
Environmental Stewardship



Andrew Wier, Director
Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund

cc: Lost Pines GCD Board of Directors