

BRAZOS VALLEY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT GUIDE FOR UNDERSTANDING RULES & MANAGEMENT PLAN

Drilling, Registration & Permitting

- Water wells incapable of producing more than 50,000 GPD (35 GPM) for domestic or livestock uses are exempt from permitting and fees but must obtain registration prior to drilling.
- Drilling permits required for all non-exempt wells.
- Drilling permits are valid for 3 years with up to a 2-year extension available (paying full rate on permitted amount).
- All pre-existing wells are subject to registration.
- Maximum withdrawal allowed presently is based on the average annual gallons per minute requested and control of the contiguous acre associated with that production determined by the creation of the well footprint.
- Maximum pumping rate is 3,300 gpm.
- Non-exempt well drilling & operating permits are subject to hearing process & approval by Board.
- Operating Permits describe the amount and rate of withdrawal of water as well as the location and usage.
- Non-exempt wells exceeding 800 ac-ft/year require notification to all property owners within 5 miles of the well and same-aquifer well owners within 10 miles of the proposed well.
- Operating Permits are issued for a 5-year term and are renewable.
- Groundwater Transport Permit required for water exported outside the District. A hearing, notification process, and Board approval is required.
- Transport Permits have thirty-year terms if construction of conveyance system initiated within 3 years.
- Historic use permits (for maximum annual use prior to 2004) good for life of well.

Well spacing requirements

- A new well may not be drilled within a minimum of 50 feet from the perimeter of the property that is legally assigned to that well
- Spacing of all new non-exempt wells completed in the District, other than the Brazos River Alluvium Aquifer, shall be one foot per gallon per minute (1 ft/gpm) of average annual production rate or capacity from the perimeter of the property that is legally assigned to that well.
- Spacing of all new non-exempt wells completed in the District, other than the Brazos River Alluvium Aquifer, shall be two feet per gallon per minute (2 ft / gpm) of average annual production rate or capacity from a permitted or registered well in the same aquifer formation that is in the District or is by applied for to the District by the applicant.
- Non-exempt well footprints for the Carrizo-Wilcox, Queen City, Sparta, or Yegua-Jackson sands must remain on property that the applicant has legal right to produce groundwater.
- Well footprints screening the same aquifer may not overlap.
- All spacing is based on the average annual gpm required to produce the permitted amount of water
- Brazos River Alluvium wells are exempt from spacing requirements.

District Fees

- Current Production Fee - \$.04875 per 1000 gallons produced and reported.
- Export Fee - \$.20 per 1000 gallons exported out of district.
- Steam Electric - \$0.31 per acre-foot produced.
- Agricultural Irrigation Production Fee - \$0.1975 per acre-foot produced or permitted.
- Drilling/Operating Permit Fee - \$100.00/permit

Management Strategies

- Provide protection for existing users and landowners' property rights.
- Create management zones based on aquifer properties and characteristics when deemed appropriate and necessary.
- Take appropriate action to protect and maintain appropriate aquifer water levels to protect both current and future producers.

- Evaluate aquifer impacts through annual water level monitoring for wells identified throughout the District as Water Level Monitoring Wells.
- Work within GMA process to develop DFCs and management strategies beneficial to all stakeholders.
- Monitor drought and drought conditions within the District.
- Provide educational resources, including District Staff presentations, to schools and community events pertaining to conservation, contamination and aquifer/watershed management.
- 5-year review of Operating permits began in 2013 and will continue