

# MID-EAST TEXAS 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 1 year with a 6-month extension available.
- All pre-existing wells are subject to registration.
- Maximum withdrawal allowed presently is 3-acre feet, per contiguous acre controlled, per year.
- 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 require notification to all property owners within 1,000 – 1,500 feet of the well depending on proposed production capacity.
- Operating Permits are issued for a 5-year term.
- 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 2012) good for life of well.

## **Well spacing requirements**

- Wells must be at least 50 ft. from property boundary or another existing well.
- Non-exempt wells capable of producing at a rate up to and including 500 gpm and completed in the Carrizo-Wilcox, Queen City, Sparta, or Yegua-Jackson sands shall be spaced a minimum 1,000 feet from any other well completed in the same sands.
- Non-exempt wells capable of producing at a rate more than 500 gpm and completed in the Carrizo-Wilcox, Queen City, Sparta, or Yegua-Jackson sands shall be spaced a minimum of 1,500 feet from any other well completed in the same sands.
- The required spacing for all other non-exempt well completed in other aquifers in the District will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Variances for well spacing are available on a limited basis pursuant to rules.

## **District Fees**

- Current Production Fee - \$.05 per 1000 gallons produced and reported.
- Export Fee - \$.12 per 1000 gallons exported out of district.
- Excess Production Fee - \$0.10 per 1000 gallons produced more than permit amount.
- Agricultural Irrigation Production Fee - \$0.25 per acre-foot produced.
- Drilling/Operating Permit Fee - \$100.00/permit

## **Management Strategies**

- Provide protection for existing users and landowners' property rights.
- Evaluate aquifer impacts through annual water level monitoring for wells identified throughout the District as Water Level Monitoring Wells.
- Take appropriate action to protect and maintain appropriate aquifer water levels to protect both current and future producers.
- 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 to schools and community events pertaining to conservation and aquifer management.

## **Mid-East Texas GCD Brief History**

**2001- Creation with 77<sup>th</sup> Legislature**

**2002- Confirmation Election by 2/3 in all three counties (Madison, Leon, and Freestone)**

**2004- Original Management Plan Adopted**

**Sept 2005- Original Rules adopted by District**

**2005- GMA/DFC Process becomes law (HB1763)**

**Sept 2008- Repeal of Sept 2005 Rules**

**Sept 2008- Original adoption of 2008 Rules**

**2009-2012- Permitting process for all non-exempt wells**

**2009- Readoption of District Management Plan**

**Sept 2010- Adoption of first round of DFCs**

**May 2012- Rules amended after revised Management Plan**

**2012- Began annual Water Level Monitoring program**

**2013- Codified as Chapter 8866 Special Districts**

**2013- Rules Amendments approved by District**

**Aug 2014- Readoption of District Management Plan**

**2018- Began Water Well Plugging Assistance program**

**Jan 2018- Rules revisions made for District**

**2019- Groundwater Availability Model GAM Updated**

**Aug 2019- Rules modifications approved by District**

**Sep 2019- Management Plan revised and readopted**