

SAN PATRICIO COUNTY

Groundwater Management Plan

Prepared by

San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District

July 19, 2022

San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District

Groundwater Management Plan

I. Mission Statement

The San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District (the district) is committed to management and protection of the groundwater resources of San Patricio County. The District is committed to maintaining a sustainable, adequate, reliable, cost effective, high quality source of groundwater to promote the vitality, economy, and environment of the County. The District will work with and for the citizens and landowners of the County and cooperate with other local, regional, and state agencies involved in study and management of groundwater. The District will not take any action without the full consideration of the groundwater needs of the citizens of the County.

II. Purpose

In 1997 the 75th Texas Legislature established a statewide comprehensive regional water planning initiative with enactment of Senate Bill 1 (SB1). Among the provisions of SB1 were amendments to Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code (TWC) requiring groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) to develop groundwater management plans to be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for approval as administratively complete. The management plan must contain estimates of groundwater availability in San Patricio GCD, details of how the district will manage groundwater and management goals for the district. In 2001 the 77th Texas Legislature further clarified water planning and management provisions of SB1 through Senate Bill 2 (SB2).

Administrative requirements of Chapter 36 TWC provisions for groundwater management plan development are specified in 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 356 of TWDB Rules. The following plan fulfills all requirements for groundwater management plans in SB1, SB2, Chapter 36 TWC, and the administrative rules of TWDB.

III. Time Period of Plan

This plan shall be in effect for a period of five (5) years from date of approval by TWDB unless a new or amended management plan is adopted by the district Board of Directors (board) and approved by TWDB. This management plan will be readopted with or without changes by the board and submitted to the TWDB for approval every 5 years.

IV. San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District (The District)

The District was created in 2005 by the 79th Texas Legislature enacting HB 3568 creating Chapter 8817, Special District Local Laws Code. This act is recorded in Chapter 1178, General Laws, Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005. The District was confirmed by local election held in San Patricio County on May 12, 2007 with 60% of the voters in favor.

The District Board of Directors (board) is comprised of seven (7) members elected to staggered four-year terms. Six directors are elected from county justice-of-the-peace precincts and one director is elected at-large. The current Board of Directors (board) consists of Robert Gonzalez, Stephen Thomas, Vernon Kramer, Joe Pullin, Jr., Charles Ring, Matt Setliff and Richard Dupriest. The election process for the district directors was clarified by the Texas Legislature in 2007. The board holds regular meetings at the County Extension Office at 219 N.

Vineyard Avenue in Sinton, Texas quarterly unless otherwise posted. All official meetings of the board of directors are public meetings noticed and held in accordance with all public meeting requirements.

The District is located in San Patricio County, Texas. The boundaries are the same as the political boundaries of San Patricio County, Texas. The District is bounded by Nueces, Jim Wells, Live Oak, Bee, Refugio, Nueces, and Aransas counties. As of the plan date, confirmed GCDs exist in Bee, Live Oak, Jim Wells, and Refugio counties. GCDs neighboring the District are: Corpus Christi Aquifer Storage and Recovery CD, Bee GCD, Live Oak GCD, Brush Country GCD, and Refugio GCD (Figure 1).

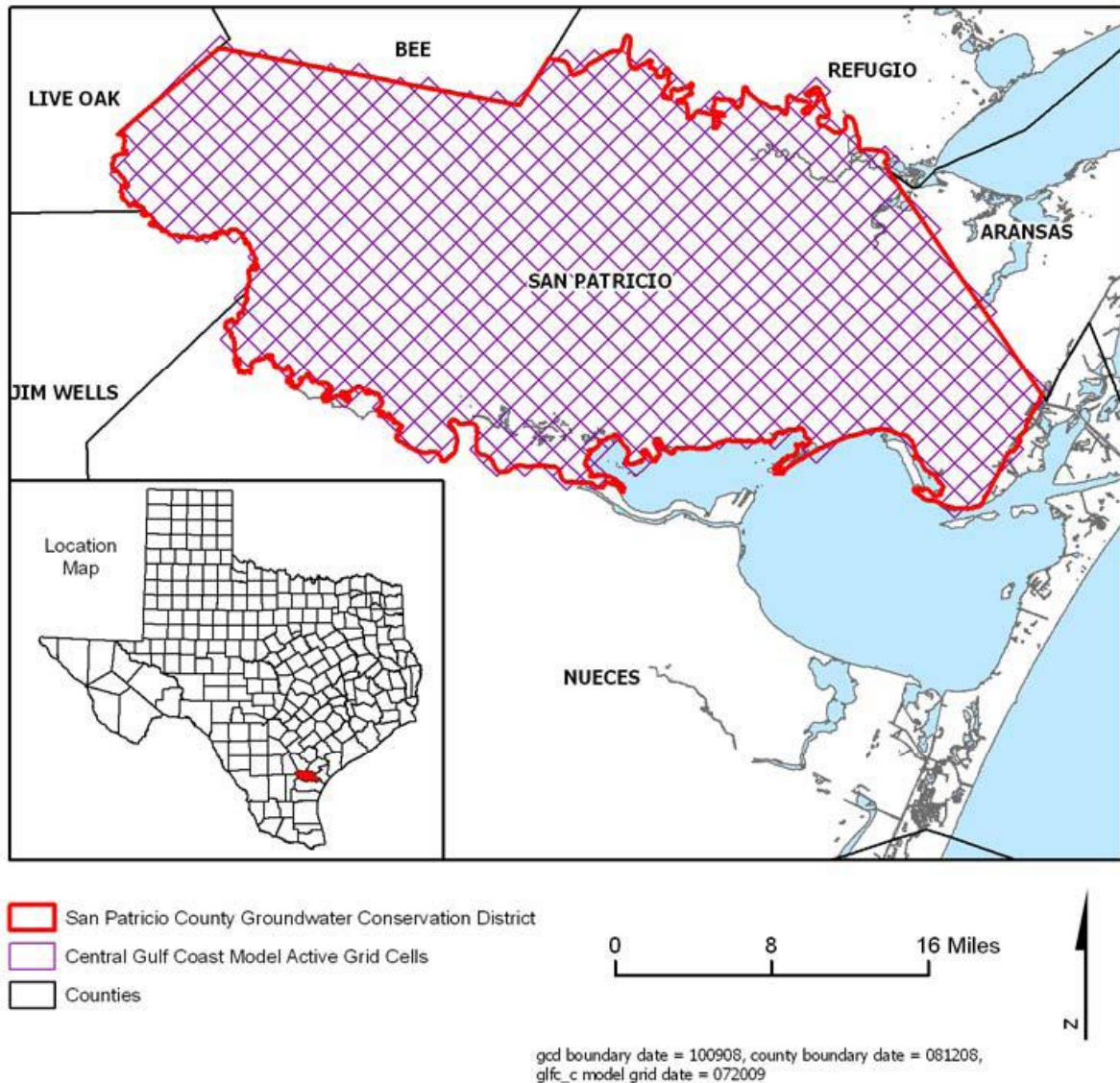


Figure 1: Area of the groundwater availability model for the central portion of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System (San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District boundary).

The District is located in Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 16 (Figure 2). Chapter 36 TWC authorizes the district to coordinate its management of groundwater with other GCDs in GMA 16. Other confirmed GCDs in GMA 16 are:

- Bee Groundwater Conservation District
- Brush Country Groundwater Conservation District
- Corpus Christi ASR Conservation District
- Duval County Groundwater Conservation District
- Kenedy County Groundwater Conservation District
- Live Oak Underground Water Conservation District
- McMullen Groundwater Conservation District
- Red Sands Groundwater Conservation District
- Starr County Groundwater Conservation District

V. Authority of San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District

The District derives its authority to manage groundwater through powers granted in Chapter 8817, Special District Local Laws Code. The District, acting under authority of the enabling legislation, assumes all rights and responsibilities of a groundwater conservation district specified in Chapter 36, Water Code. The rules are available on the District's website: www.spcgcd.org under the rules tab.

VI. Geology & Hydrologic Units of San Patricio County

The aquifer layers described below (Jasper, Evangeline, and Chicot) are all part of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System, which is recognized by the TWDB as a major aquifer.

Except for the Quaternary alluvium, the geologic formations crop out in belts nearly parallel to the Gulf of Mexico. Younger formations crop out nearer the Gulf and older formations crop out inland. The formations dip toward the coast and thicken causing the older formations to dip more steeply. Faults are common and some of them have displacements of up to several hundred feet. The displacements tend to decrease upward and may not appear at the surface. Faulting generally does not disrupt regional hydraulic continuity (Loskot et. al, 1982).

Jasper Aquifer - The Jasper aquifer is a minor source of water that may be slightly or moderately saline (Figure 3). It consists mainly of the Oakville Sandstone, but may include the upper part of the Catahoula Sandstone. The Oakville Sandstone contains laterally discontinuous sand and gravel lenses interbedded with shale and clay. Massive sandstone beds at the base of the formation thin upward with greater amounts of shale and clay. The Jasper aquifer ranges in thickness from about 200 to 800 feet where fresh to slightly saline water is present, but may reach 2,500 feet of thickness downdip in San Patricio County (adapted from Loskot et. al, 1982).

Burkeville Confining Layer - The Burkeville confining layer is mostly clay but contains some sand layers (Figure 3). Burkeville clay sequences are identified in the subsurface by electric logs and act as a regional impediment to vertical water flow. The Burkeville ranges from 300 to 500 feet in thickness (adapted from Loskot et. al, 1982).

Evangeline Aquifer - The Evangeline Aquifer consists of sand and clay of the Goliad Sands and the upper part of the Fleming Formation (Figure 3). The Evangeline Aquifer

generally contains more sand than clay. Some of the sands and clays are continuous throughout much of the area. Individual sands may reach 100 feet in thickness in the area containing fresh to slightly saline water. Maximum thickness of the Evangeline Aquifer is 1,380 feet and may have up to 470 feet of sand in aggregate thickness. Fresh water may occur as deep as 2,000 feet in east-central San Patricio County (adapted from Loskot et. al, 1982).

Chicot Aquifer - The Chicot Aquifer is the main source of groundwater in San Patricio County and consists of discontinuous layers of sand and clay of about equal thickness. It is composed of water bearing units of the Willis Sand, Lissie Formation, Beaumont Clay, and Quaternary alluvium, which include all deposits from land surface to the top of the Evangeline Aquifer. The Chicot Aquifer contains all fresh water in San Patricio County. Individual sands may reach 500 feet in thickness. It is in hydrologic continuity with the Evangeline Aquifer and the two units can be difficult to distinguish. The Chicot is delineated from the Evangeline in the subsurface mainly on higher sand to clay ratios that give the Chicot higher hydraulic conductivity (adapted from Loskot et. al, 1982).

System	Series	Geologic Unit		Hydrologic Unit
Quaternary	Holocene	Alluvium		Chicot Aquifer
	Pleistocene	Beaumont Clay		
		Montgomery Formation	Lissie Formation	
		Bentley Formation		
		Willis Sand		
Tertiary	Pliocene	Goliad Sand		Evangeline Aquifer
	Miocene	Fleming Formation		Burkeville Confining Zone
		Oakville Sandstone		Jasper Aquifer
		Catahoula Sandstone (Tuff)		

Figure 3. Geologic and Hydrologic Units of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System in San Patricio County (modified from Loskot et al. 1982).

VII. Geography of San Patricio County GCD

The District is located in the Gulf Coastal Plains region of Texas. Topography ranges from gently rolling in the northwestern part of the County to flatlands in the eastern portion. Three major drainages occur in the county: the Nueces River drains the southern part, Chiltipin Creek drains the central part, and the Aransas River drains the northern part of the County.

Major north-south highways of the County are U.S. Highways 77 and 181, and IH 37. Major east-west routes include parts of U.S. 181 and all of State Highway 188.

Major population centers in the district occur in Sinton, Portland, Mathis, Odem, Taft, and Ingleside. Other population centers of the County are Edroy, Gregory, and St. Paul.

Agriculture is one of the principal economic activities in the County. Major crops produced in the County by acreage include grain sorghum (45%), cotton (45%), and corn (10%), with minor amounts of canola, sesame, sunflowers, and wheat. Beef cattle production is also a significant agricultural activity. Other economic activities in the County include production and refining of oil and gas, mining of caliche and gravel, waterfowl and big-game hunting, salt water fishing and shrimping, and various types of manufacturing.

VIII. Estimated Historical Water Use

Estimates of the amount of groundwater and surface water used annually are in Appendix A.

IX. Modeled Available Groundwater

GAM run 17-025MAG by the TWDB the Modeled Available Groundwater is available in the Appendix A. The new MAG will be issued later this year and will be incorporated into an amended version of the plan within two years.

X. Surface Water Resource and total demand of San Patricio County

This data is available to view in the Estimated Historical Water Use/2022 State Water Plan report in Appendix A.

XI. Estimates of annual natural and artificial recharge to groundwater for San Patricio County

Estimates of the annual volume of water that discharges from the aquifer, the annual volume of flow into the district within each aquifer, the annual volume of flow out of the aquifer within each aquifer, and the annual volume of flow between aquifers in the district are available in Appendix A under GAM Run 21-022.

Net annual amount of lateral underflow received by the aquifer underlying the District and annual amount of water taken from storage in the aquifer in the County are available in Appendix A under GAM Run 21-022.

The estimates of annual natural and artificial recharge is available in Appendix A under GAM Run 21-022

XII. Water Management Strategies to Meet Water User Group Needs

The District considered the water management strategies included in the state water plan. The District considered the management strategies identified in the State Water Plan including development of supplies from the Gulf Coast Aquifer System, the Gulf of Mexico, direct reuse, demand reduction, and treatment plant improvement for irrigation, mining, and manufacturing .

The estimated projected water management strategies are available in Appendix A.

XIII. Projected Water Supply Needs

The projected water supply needs identified for San Patricio County are in the following categories: irrigation, mining, and manufacturing. The need is estimated to be 1,920 acre-feet/year in 2020 increasing to 18,165 acre-feet/year in 2070. The District has considered the projected water supply needs identified.

The estimated projected water supply needs is available in Appendix A.

XIV. Desired Future Conditions

The desired future condition (DFC) of the groundwater within the District has been established in accordance with Chapter 36.108 of the Texas Water Code. The District actively participated in the joint planning process with GMA 16 and development of a DFC for the portion of the aquifer(s) in the District.

The modeled available groundwater is available in Appendix A as GAM Run 17-025 MAG.

XV. How the District Will Manage Groundwater

The District will manage groundwater in the County to conserve the resource while seeking to maintain economic viability of all resource user groups, both public and private. In consideration of economic and cultural activities in the County, the District will identify and engage in activities and practices that if implemented would result in more efficient groundwater use. The District will undertake and cooperate with investigations of groundwater resources in the County and make results of investigations available to the public upon adoption by the board. All actions and rules of The District will adhere to TWC, Chapter 36.

The District will issue permits and set production and spacing limitations in accordance with guidelines stated in the District rules. A copy of the District's rules is available on the District website: www.spcgcd.org under the Rules tab.

The District is committed to maintaining a sustainable, adequate, reliable, cost effective, high quality source of groundwater to promote the vitality, economy, and environment of the

County. In pursuit of The District's mission of protecting the resource, The District may require reduction of groundwater withdrawals to amounts that will not cause harm to the aquifer.

The District will enforce the terms and conditions of permits and rules by enjoining the permit holder in a court of competent jurisdiction as provided for in TWC, Chapter 36.102.

The District will employ technical resources at its disposal to evaluate resources available in the County and determine the effectiveness of regulatory or conservation measures. A public or private user may appeal to the board for discretion in enforcement of provisions of the water supply deficit contingency plan on grounds of adverse economic hardship or unique local conditions. Exercise of this discretion by the board shall not be construed as limiting the board's power.

The District considered the water supply needs and water management strategies included in the state water plan. The water supply needs could be met with either surface water supplies, or desalinization of sea water by the City of Corpus Christi. The City of Corpus Christi supplies most of southern San Patricio county manufacturing and cities with water, which, mainly, is surface water currently.

XVI. Actions, Procedures, Performance, & Avoidance Necessary to Put Plan into Effect

The District will implement provisions of this management plan and will utilize plan objectives as a guide for board actions, operations, and decision-making. The District will ensure its planning efforts, activities, and operations are consistent with plan provisions.

The District has adopted rules in accordance with TWC, Chapter 36 and all rules will be followed and enforced. Rules development will be based on the best scientific information and technical evidence available. The rules are available on the District website: www.spcgcd.org under the rules tab.

The District will encourage cooperation and coordination in plan implementation. All operations and activities will be performed to encourage citizen cooperation in the County and with appropriate water management entities at state, regional, and local levels.

XVII. Methodology for Tracking Progress in Achieving Management Goals

The District will prepare and submit an annual report (Annual Report) to the board. The Annual Report will include an update on the District's performance in achieving management goals contained in this plan. The Annual Report will be presented to the board within ninety (90) days following completion of the District's Fiscal Year, beginning in the fiscal year starting 2010. A copy of the annual audit of the District's financial records will be included in the Annual Report.

Literature Cited

Dutton, A. R. and B. C. Richter. 1990. *Regional Geohydrology of the Gulf Coast Aquifer in Matagorda and Wharton Counties, TX*. University of Texas, Austin. Bureau of Economic Geology Final Report for Lower Colorado River Authority.

Loskot, Carole L., William M. Sandeen, and C. R. Follett. 1982. *Texas Water Development Board Report 270: Ground-water Resources of Colorado, Lavaca, & Wharton Counties, Texas*. 1982.

Ryder, P. D. 1988. *Hydrogeology and Predevelopment Flow in the Texas Gulf Coast Aquifer System*. USGS Water Resources Investigations Report 87-4248.

Scanlon, B. R., R. W. Healy, and P.G. Cook, Choosing appropriate techniques for quantifying groundwater recharge, *Hydrogeology J.*, 2002.

XVIII. Management Goals, Objectives, and Performance Standards

Resource Goals

Goal 1.0: Providing the most efficient use of groundwater

Management Objective:

Each year the District will provide education materials concerning the efficient use of groundwater.

Performance standard:

Provide educational materials to at least one school annually.

Goal 2.0: Controlling and preventing waste of groundwater

Management Objective:

The management will report any waste to the District Board.

Performance standard:

The District will investigate all reports of waste within 7 working days. The number of reports of waste as well as the investigation findings will be reported to the District Board annually.

Goal 3.0: Controlling and preventing subsidence

The District has reviewed the report: Identification of the Vulnerability of the Major and Minor Aquifers in Texas to Subsidence with regard to Groundwater Pumping – TWDB Contract Number 1648302062 by LRE Water:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/research/subsidence/subsidence.asp>. Figure 4.23 of the subsidence report illustrates that the major aquifer subsidence risk within the District boundaries ranges from medium to the high range. Due to the amount of current pumping, subsidence is not expected to occur, but the District will monitor any potential pumping that may affect subsidence. This goal is currently not applicable

Goal 4.0: Addressing Conjunctive surface water management issues

Management Objective:

The District will participate in the regional planning process by attending the Region N regional water planning group meetings to encourage the development of surface water supplies to meet the needs of water user groups within the District. A representative of the District will attend, at least, one meeting of the Region N regional water planning group.

Performance Standard:

The District will attend, at least, one meeting of the Region N regional water planning group and include the attendee's name in the Annual Report to the Board.

Goal 5.0: Addressing Natural Resource Issues

Management Objective:

The District will investigate issues related to environmental and other concerns that may be affected by a district's groundwater management plan and rules, such as impacts on endangered species, soils, oil and gas production, mining, air and water quality degradation, agriculture, and plant and animal life.

Performance Standard:

The District will investigate reports of any issues related to environmental and other concerns that may be affected by a district's groundwater management plan and rules, such as impacts on endangered species, soils, oil and gas production, mining, air and water quality degradation, agriculture, and plant and animal life within 120 days of receiving the report.

Goal 6.0: Addressing Drought Conditions

Management Objective:

The District will monitor the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI). The link to the Drought index is www.waterdatafortexas.org/drought

Performance Standard:

A report of the U S Drought Monitor will be presented to the District board on an annual basis: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu> . This link and additional links to important information on drought can be accessed at the TWDB's Water Data for Texas website: www.waterdatafortexas.org/drought

Goal 7.0: Addressing Conservation

Management Objective:

Each year the District will provide educational material to the public promoting conservation methods and concepts.

Performance Standard:

The District will make at least one educational brochure available per year through service organizations, and on a continuing basis at the District office.

Goal 8.0: Addressing Precipitation Enhancement

The District has determined that this goal is not financially feasible at this time so it is not applicable.

Goal 9.0: Recharge Enhancement

This goal is not applicable to the District because, at the current time, it is cost prohibitive.

Goal 10.0: Addressing Rainwater Harvesting

This goal is not applicable to the District because, at the current time, it is cost prohibitive.

Goal 11.0: Addressing Brush Control

This goal is not applicable to the District because, at the current time, it is cost prohibitive.

Goal 12.0: Addressing the desired future conditions of the groundwater resource in the District.

Management Objective:

The District will review and calculate its permit and well registration totals in light of the Desired Future Conditions of the groundwater resources within the boundaries of the District to assess whether the District is on target to meet the Desired Future Conditions estimates submitted to the TWDB.

Performance Standard:

The District's Annual Report will include a discussion of the District's permit and well registration totals and will evaluate the District's progress in achieving the Desired Future Conditions of the groundwater resources within the boundaries of the District and whether the District is on track to maintain the Desired Future Conditions estimates over the 50-year planning period.

Management Objective:

The District will annually measure the water levels in at least three monitoring wells within the District and will determine the five-year water level averages based on the samples taken. The District will compare the five-year water level averages to the corresponding five-year increment of its Desired Future Conditions in order to track its progress in achieving the Desired Future Conditions.

Performance Standard:

The District's Annual Report will include the water level measurements taken each year for the purpose of measuring water levels to assess the District's progress towards achieving its Desired Future Conditions. Once the District has obtained water level measurements for five consecutive years and is able to calculate water level averages over five-year periods thereafter, the District will include a discussion of its comparison of water level averages to the corresponding five-year increment of its Desired Future Conditions in order to track its progress in achieving its Desired Future Conditions. Any water measurements taken by TWDB or USGS will also be considered.

APPENDIX A