NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

Groundwater Management Area 9 Joint Planning Committee Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of the Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA 9) Joint Planning Committee will be held at **10:00 A.M.** on **Tuesday, the 17th of November, 2026**. The GMA 9 Joint Planning Committee is comprised of District Representatives from the following Districts located wholly or partially within GMA 9:

Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District
Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District
Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District
Hays-Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District
Medina County Groundwater Conservation District
Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District
Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District

FILED this 4th day of Nov. 20__
LAURA WALLA
County Clerk Blanco County, Texas
By SMercer Deputy

The meeting will take place in the Cow Creek GCD's Meeting Room located at **9 Toepperwein Road** in **Boerne, Texas, 78006** at which time the following will be discussed and appropriate action taken, pursuant to Chapter 36, Texas Water Code; and pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code Section 551, Open Meetings, including all subchapters and sections:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8476235409?pwd=9daTg35w2pHZ7JRRuBo05g3TPkYfXx.1&omn=83396714302
Meeting ID: 847 623 5409
Passcode: 202611

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Establishment of a Quorum and receipt of posted open meeting notices.
4. Introductions
5. Public comment
6. Review and consider the minutes of the October 20th, 2026 GMA 9 meeting.
7. Discussion and possible action under §36.108, Texas Water Code, regarding joint planning of groundwater conservation districts in Groundwater Management Area 9, the accomplishments of and issues facing the management area, and information related to proposals to adopt new or amend existing desired future conditions. Groundwater availability models and other data or information for the management area may be discussed in relation to the discussion and adoption of the desired future conditions for the relevant aquifers within the management area, including the considerations listed under §36.108(d), Texas Water Code.
8. Consider approval of GMA 9 Resolution #2026-002 *"Adopting the Groundwater Management Area 9 Joint Planning Committee's Proposed Classification of Locally Managed Aquifers as Non-Relevant for Joint Planning Purposes and the Desired Future Conditions for Relevant Major*

and Minor Aquifers in GMA 9, and authorizing the GMA 9 Chairman to formally submit them and all other required information to the TWDB."

9. Consider approval of *"Groundwater Management Area 9 2026 Explanatory Report for Desired Future Conditions for Major and Minor Aquifers."*

10. Discussion and possible action related to the new Southern Trinity GAM and the upcoming 5th round of Joint Planning.

11. Sub-committee updates related to:
    a. Public Outreach
    b. Drawdown
    c. Management Plan
    d. Rules
    e. Regional Planning Groups

12. Comments and updates from TWDB and GMA 9 representatives on the joint planning process and other correspondence and announcements.

13. Public comment

14. Establish date, time, and place of next meeting and discuss potential agenda items.

15. Adjournment

Further information, questions, or comments concerning any aspect of this meeting should be directed to:

Mr. Micah Voulgaris, GMA 9 Planning Committee Chair
c/o Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District
P.O. Box 1557 – Boerne, Texas 78006

Office : 830-816-2504 Mobile : 830-446-9782 e-mail : manager@ccgcd.org

Please note:

1. *The GMA9 Committee may take a brief recess during the meeting, depending upon the length of the meeting.*
2. *The GMA9 Committee is committed to compliance with the Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodation and equal opportunity for effective communications will be provided upon request. Please contact the GMA 9 Chair at 830-816-2504 at least 24 hours in advance if accommodation is needed.*
3. *Members of the public who desire to address the Committee on any matter may sign up to do so prior to the meeting. Public comments will be received during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.*

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 9

JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

October 20, 2026

1

EXPLANATORY REPORT 2026 SCHEDULE

Remaining Items:

- **Draft ER PDF and comment matrix released to GMA 9 GCD members – 10/14/2026**
- **GMA 9 ER review and discussion – 10/20/2026**
- **Comments from GMA 9 GCD members submitted – 10/30/2026; Please use comment matrix**
- **GMA 9 adopts final DFCs and proposed non-relevant classifications, and approves ER – 11/17/2026; DCFs must be approved by two-thirds vote of all GCD representatives**
- **GMA 9 Chairman submits DFCs and all required information, including ER, to TWDB – 12/2026**

3

AGS APPROACH FOR DRAFT ER

- **Update 2021 GMA 9 ER template for 2026 joint planning cycle**
- **Address new statutory requirements from last cycle**
- **Revised format of Section 4.0 for one combined discussion of all aquifer DFCs, and one for all factors and impacts**
- **Incorporate new format for Trinity Aquifer DFC, changes to Ellenburger-San Saba and Hickory aquifer DFCs (Kendall County) for Cow Creek GCD, and new Ellenburger DFC (Kerr County) for Headwaters GCD**
- **Did not repeat information from previous cycles**
- **Presume November 17, 2026, as final DFC adoption date**

4

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

- **1.1 Background –**
  - **Updated TWDB DFC Submission Packet Checklist (Appendix A)**
  - **Updated Summary of Seven ER TWC Required Elements (Appendix B)**
- **1.2 Scope of GMA 9 ER –**
  - **Updated for 2026 planning cycle**
- **1.3 GMA 9 Description –**
  - **Revised for current GMA 9 GCD membership and management plans**
- **1.4 Aquifer Descriptions –**
  - **Reviewed and revised only as needed**

5

SECTION 2. GMA 9 2026 DFC JOINT-PLANNING PROCESS

- 2.1 GMA DFC Joint Planning Statutory (TWC)/Regulatory(TAC) Requirements – Revised
  - Revised for TWDB 50-year planning period, and DFC interim values
  - TWC § 36.3011 – Petitions to TCEQ
- 2.2 GMA 9 Joint Planning and DFC Development Process – Revised
  - Began May 2022; 23 meetings total (May 2022 – November 2026); potential modeling needs and DFCs discussion began June 2022
  - "Water Talk" public meetings; 4 total (October 2023 – February 2024)
  - Potential modeling needs and DFCs, new STAGAM, HCT GAM v. STAGAM, data and GAM results, factor presentations, and proposed and final DFCs and non-relevant aquifer classifications

SECTION 2. GMA 9 2026 DFC JOINT-PLANNING PROCESS

- TWC § 36.108(d) nine factor presentations (Appendix C)
- GMA 9 Committee resolution regarding proposed DFCs and non-relevant aquifer classifications (Appendix D)
- March 2026 presentation to GMA 9 Committee on proposed DFCs and non-relevant aquifer classifications, "balance test," and nine factors (Appendix E)
- GMA 9 90-day public comment process and GCD public hearings
- Comal Trinity GCD, Hays Trinity GCD, and Headwaters GCD relevant comment summaries (Appendix F)
- GMA 9 Resolution No. 2026-002 to adopt final DFCs and non-relevant aquifer classifications, and approve ER (Appendix G)

SECTION 3. GMA 9 PROPOSED NON-RELEVANT AQUIFER CLASSIFICATIONS

- Section reviewed and revised, as needed
- Revised Ellenburger Aquifer discussion to remove Kerr County
- Table 6 – Adopted proposed non-relevant aquifer classifications

SECTION 4. GMA 9 DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

- Section reviewed, revised and re-formatted, and new information added
- Table 19 – Adopted DFCs (all aquifers) and variance statement
- Table 20 – GMA 9 interim values for monitoring progress to achieve DFCs (all aquifers)
- Section 4.1 Policy and Technical Justifications and "Balance Test" – Trinity Aquifer –
  - 4.1.1 GMA 9 GCD observations modeled v. observed water levels in monitoring Trinity DFC
  - 4.1.2 New STAGAM, and GMA 9 request to use HCT GAM (Appendix H)
  - 4.1.3 HCT GAM Results
  - Table 21 – GAM runs and technical information (Appendix I)
  - 4.1.4 "Balance Test" discussion

SECTION 4. GMA 9 DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

- Sections 4.2 – 4.3 Policy and Technical Justifications and "Balance Test" – Edwards Group of the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer, and Ellenburger-San Saba and Hickory Aquifers –
  - Discussion of Shi Technical Memorandum
  - "Balance Test" discussions
- Section 4.4 TWC § 36.108(d) factor considerations, and impacts of adopted DFCs on factors –
  - 4.4.1 – 4.4.9 Factor discussions include impacts of adopted DFCs

10

SECTION 4. GMA 9 DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

- Section 4.5 Other DFC options considered by GMA 9 and reason for non-adoption –
  - Other DFC options considered, and why GMA 9 selected adopted DFCs
- Section 4.6 Reasons why recommendations by advisory committees or relevant public comments were or not incorporated in DFCs –
  - Comments about proposed DFCs and estimated drawdowns, use of HCT GAM v. new STAGAM, management within East Kerr Management Zone, and monitoring water levels to achieve DFCs
  - Comments reasonable and will be considered in next planning cycle

11

SECTION 4. GMA 9 DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

- Section 4.7 Discussion of DFC changes from prior five-year planning cycle – *New ER section*
  - Addition of specific drawdowns for each county in Trinity Aquifer DFC
  - Use of Llano Uplift GAM to select Ellenburger-San Saba and Hickory Aquifer DFCs; municipal uses continue to expand in Kerr County
- Section 4.8 Summary of GCD performance to achieve DFCs – *New ER section*
  - Summaries submitted by GCDs included

12

SECTION 5. LIST OF REFERENCES

- Section reviewed and revised
- Deleted references not sourced or cited in ER

13

EXPLANATORY REPORT 2026 SCHEDULE

Remaining Items:

- **Draft ER PDF and comment matrix released to GMA 9 GCD members – 10/14/2026**
- **GMA 9 ER review and discussion – 10/20/2026**
- **Comments from GMA 9 GCD members submitted – 10/30/2026; Please use comment matrix**
- **GMA 9 adopts final DFCs and proposed non-relevant classifications, and approves ER – 11/17/2026; DCFs must be approved by two-thirds vote of all GCD representatives**
- **GMA 9 Chairman submits DFCs and all required information, including ER, to TWDB – 12/2026**

TABLE 6. GMA 9 ADOPTED PROPOSED NON-RELEVANT AQUIFER CLASSIFICATONS (FOR JOINT PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY)

Proposed Classification as Non-Relevant	Applicable Area(s) Within GMA-9 (All or Portions of the Following Counties)
Edwards Aquifer (Balcones Fault Zone)	Bexar, Comal, Hays, and Travis counties
Edwards Group of Edwards-Trinity (Plateau)	Blanco and Kerr counties
Ellenburger-San Saba	Blanco County
Hickory	Blanco, Hays, Kerr, and Travis counties
Marble Falls	Blanco County (entire GMA)

- **Only change from previous cycle is Ellenburger-San Saba Aquifer in Kerr County**

TABLE 19. GMA 9 ADOPTED DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

Major or Minor Aquifer	Desired Future Conditions
Trinity	Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 30 feet through 2080 relative to 2008 water-level conditions (throughout GMA 9) consistent with "Scenario 6" in TWDB GAM Task 10-005 (Original well locations/pumping volumes):
	Bandera County - Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 29 feet through 2080.
	Bexar County - Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 46 feet through 2080.
	Blanco County - Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 19 feet through 2080.
	Comal County - Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 24 feet through 2080.
	Hays County - Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 19 feet through 2080.
	Kendall County - Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 29 feet through 2080.
	Kerr County - Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 39 feet through 2080.
	Medina County - Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 16 feet through 2080.
	Travis County - Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 28 feet through 2080.

TABLE 19. GMA 9 ADOPTED DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

Major or Minor Aquifer	Desired Future Conditions
Edwards Group of Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) – Bandera and Kendall Counties	Allow for no net increase in average drawdown in Bandera and Kendall counties through 2080.
Ellenburger-San Saba – Kendall and Kerr Counties	Allow for an increase in average drawdown of no more than 16 Feet in Kendall County and no more than 11 feet in Kerr County through 2080 consistent with Scenario 3 of the March 9, 2024 Technical Memorandum titled "Evaluation of Water Level Change Due to Potential Pumping in Ellenburger Unit in Blanco, Kendall, and Kerr Counties from End of 2010 to End of 2080 Using Llano Uplift Minor Aquifers Groundwater Availability Model."
Hickory – Kendall County	Allow for an increase in average drawdown of no more than 16 Feet in Kendall County through 2080 consistent with Scenario 3 of the March 9, 2024 Technical Memorandum titled "Evaluation of Water Level Change Due to Potential Pumping in Ellenburger Unit in Blanco, Kendall, and Kerr Counties from End of 2010 to End of 2080 Using Llano Uplift Minor Aquifers Groundwater Availability Model."

TABLE 19. GMA 9 ADOPTED DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

- **Variance Statement for Inclusion in DFC Statements: Based on the principle of using the GAM as a joint planning tool and the fact that the GAM predictions contain uncertainty, GMA 9 considers the DFCs to be compatible and physically possible if the difference between modeled drawdown results and DFC drawdown targets calculated within a 10 percent variance for all aquifers in the GAM simulation.**

TABLE 20. GMA 9 DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS - INTERIM VALUES

Major or Minor Aquifer	Desired Future Condition Area of Applicability	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080
Trinity	Throughout GMA 9	30	30	30	30	30	30
	Bandera County	29	29	29	29	29	29
	Bexar County	46	46	46	46	46	46
	Blanco County	19	19	19	19	19	19
	Comal County	24	24	24	24	24	24
	Hays County	19	19	19	19	19	19
	Kendall County	29	29	29	29	29	29
	Kerr County	39	39	39	39	39	39
	Medina County	16	16	16	16	16	16
	Travis County	28	28	28	28	28	28
Edwards Group of Edwards-Trinity (Plateau)	Bandera County	No Net Increase	No Net Increase	No Net Increase	No Net Increase	No Net Increase	No Net Increase
	Kendall County	No Net Increase	No Net Increase	No Net Increase	No Net Increase	No Net Increase	No Net Increase
Ellenburger-San Saba	Kerr County	11	11	11	11	11	11
	Kendall County	16	16	16	16	16	16
Hickory	Kendall County	16	16	16	16	16	16

TABLE 21. GMA 9 GAM RUNS, TECHNICAL MEMORANDA, OR PRESENTATIONS – TRINITY/EDWARDS-TRINITY AQUIFERS

GAM Run, Technical Memorandum, or Presentation	Date (In Date Order)	Aquifer(s)	Issues Considered
GAM Task 10-005	September 3, 2010	Trinity / Edwards-Trinity Plateau	Seven pumping scenarios with pumping ranging from zero to 2X 2008 pumping via 387 50-year simulations incorporating precipitation estimates tree-ring study
GAM Task 10-031: Supplement to GAM Task 10-005	January 25, 2011	Trinity/ Edwards-Trinity Plateau	Additional results and water level contour maps related to four of the seven pumping scenarios (ranging from 2008 pumping, to 2X 2008 pumping) analyzed in GAM Task 10-005 for the Trinity Aquifer

TABLE 21. GMA 9 GAM RUNS, TECHNICAL MEMORANDA, OR PRESENTATIONS – TRINITY/EDWARDS-TRINITY AQUIFERS

GAM Run, Technical Memorandum, or Presentation	Date (In Date Order)	Aquifer(s)	Issues Considered
GAM Results – Technical Presentation	September 9, 2025	Trinity / Edwards-Trinity Plateau	Re-run of seven scenarios of GMA Task 10-005 (pumping from 0 – 120,000 ac-ft/year) with updated GCD pumping data based on location and aquifer provided, using TDLR data to estimate data for some exempt wells, holding pumping steady for 50-year period (2008-2060), and completing 387 runs with variable recharge based upon tree ring data. This run was referred to as the "2024" Run.

TABLE 21. GMA 9 GAM RUNS, TECHNICAL MEMORANDA, OR PRESENTATIONS – TRINITY/EDWARDS-TRINITY AQUIFERS

GAM Run, Technical Memorandum, or Presentation	Date (In Date Order)	Aquifer(s)	Issues Considered
Summary Presentation of Results	October 21, 2025	Trinity	Re-run seven scenarios of GAM Task 10-005 with updated GCD pumping data (distributed geographically and vertically) averaged recharge 387 runs for each model grid block, creating a single recharge file used for each of the seven scenarios; Scenarios focused on Hays and Trinity counties for insight into sensitivity of drawdown to pumping
Summary Presentation of Results	December 16, 2025	Trinity	Review of data and modeling as related to DFCs for Hays and Travis counties

TABLE 21. GMA 9 GAM RUNS, TECHNICAL MEMORANDA, OR PRESENTATIONS – TRINITY/EDWARDS-TRINITY AQUIFERS

GAM Run, Technical Memorandum, or Presentation	Date (In Date Order)	Aquifer(s)	Issues Considered
Summary Presentation Results	January 30, 2026	Trinity	Differences between GAM Task 10-005 (September 2010) drawdown results of AGS October 2025 re-run of seven scenarios
Technical Memorandum - Using TWDB GAM Task 10-005 for the GMA 9 2080 Planning Horizon	March 4, 2026	Trinity	Technical justification for using 2060 average drawdown results from Scenario 6 of TWDB GAM Task 10-005 for the 2070 and 2080 decades

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS FOR AQUIFERS IN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 9

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
§
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 9 §
§
GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS §

WHEREAS, Section 36.108 of the Texas Water Code requires groundwater conservation districts located entirely or partially within a groundwater management area designated by the Texas Water Development Board ("TWDB") to adopt subsequent desired future conditions ("DFCs") for the relevant aquifers within each groundwater management area by January 5, 2027;

WHEREAS, the groundwater conservation districts located wholly or partially within Groundwater Management Area 9 ("GMA 9"), as designated by the Texas Water Development Board, as of the date of this resolution are as follows: Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater Conservation District, Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District, Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District, Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District, Medina County Groundwater Conservation District, Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District, and Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District;

WHEREAS, the GMA 9 Districts are each governmental agencies and bodies politic and corporate operating pursuant to Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code and their applicable enabling statutes;

WHEREAS, GMA 9 and the GMA 9 Districts each desire to fulfill the requirements of Section 36.108 of the Texas Water Code through mutual cooperation and joint planning efforts;

WHEREAS, GMA 9 last adopted DFCs for its relevant aquifers on November 15, 2021;

WHEREAS, GMA 9 held meetings on May 9, 2022, June 21, 2022, August 15, 2022, February 21, 2023, April 25, 2023, July 25, 2023, September 26, 2023, November 28, 2023, January 23, 2024, March 26, 2024, June 18, 2024, September 17, 2024, December 13, 2024, February 16, 2025, April 15, 2025, May 16, 2025, June 13, 2025, September 9, 2025, October 21, 2025, December 16, 2025, January 30, 2026, February 24, 2026, March 31, 2026, September 29, 2026, October 20, 2026, and November 17, 2026, in order to comply with and publicly consider all nine factors listed in Section 36.108(d) of the Texas Water Code;

WHEREAS, GMA 9 complied with Section 36.108(d-2) and (d-2a), Texas Water Code, and proposed DFCs on March 31, 2026, after which the GMA 9 Districts posted notices for and conducted their respective public comment periods and public hearings on the proposed DFCs and then compiled and submitted to GMA 9 the requisite summaries of public comments, suggested DFCs revisions, and supporting material, which was posted on a generally accessible internet website for GMA 9 for at least 30 days;

WHEREAS, GMA 9 used the best available scientific and hydrogeological data and considered results from multiple groundwater availability models runs and other data or information, as required by Section 36.108(d) of the Texas Water Code, to establish DFCs;

WHEREAS, the GMA 9 Districts considered the nine (9) statutory factors set forth in Section 36.108(d) of the Texas Water Code before voting to adopt the DFCs for its relevant aquifers, including:

(1) aquifer uses or conditions within the management area, including conditions that differ substantially from one geographic area to another;
(2) the water supply needs and water management strategies included in the state water plan;
(3) hydrological conditions, including for each aquifer in the management area the total estimated recoverable storage as provided by the executive administrator, and the average annual recharge, inflows, and discharge;
(4) other environmental impacts, including impacts on spring flow and other interactions between groundwater and surface water;
(5) the impact on subsidence;
(6) socioeconomic impacts reasonably expected to occur;
(7) the impact on the interests and rights in private property, including ownership and the rights of management area landowners and their lessees and assigns in groundwater as recognized under Section 36.002;
(8) the feasibility of achieving the desired future condition; and
(9) any other information relevant to the specific desired future conditions.

WHEREAS, after considering the factors listed in 36.108(d), Texas Water Code, GMA 9 may establish different desired future conditions for: (1) each aquifer, subdivision of an aquifer, or geologic strata located in whole or in part within the boundaries of GMA 9; or (2) each geographic area overlying an aquifer in whole or in part or subdivision of an aquifer within the boundaries of GMA 9;

WHEREAS, the DFCs established by GMA 9 provide a balance between the highest practicable level of groundwater production and the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater and control of subsidence in the management area pursuant to Section 36.108(d-2) of the Texas Water Code;

WHEREAS, GMA 9 will document in the explanatory report, required under Section 36.108(d-3) of the Texas Water Code, all consideration of the factors and criteria required for proposing DFCs for adoption under Section 36.108 of the Texas Water Code;

WHEREAS, representatives of the GMA 9 Districts convened for a meeting to consider and adopt the DFCs for all relevant aquifers within GMA 9, which was open to the public, this day, the 17th of November 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.;

WHEREAS, with voting representatives in attendance from at least two-thirds (2/3) of the GMA 9 Districts, the notice and meeting requirements set forth by Sections 36.108(d-3) and (e) of the Texas Water Code have been met regarding this November 17, 2026, meeting, and a true and correct copy of the notices required under Section 36.108(e) is included as Attachment A to this resolution, which is fully incorporated herein for all purposes;

WHEREAS, GMA 9 finds that the notice and meeting requirements to consider and propose for adoption the DFCs for all relevant aquifers within GMA 9 have been met;

WHEREAS, it is the intent and purpose of GMA 9, by adoption of this resolution, to fulfill the DFC adoption requirements of Section 36.108 of the Texas Water Code; and,

WHEREAS, GMA 9 finds that the adopted DFCs are merited and necessary to support the management of groundwater resources within the boundaries of the GMA 9 Districts in a manner consistent with the requirements of Chapter 36, Texas Water Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS WITHIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 9:

1) **Each of the affirmations and recitals set forth above are true and correct and fully incorporated into this resolution.**

2) **No less than two-thirds (2/3) of the authorized voting representatives of the GMA 9 Districts hereby adopt the following desired future conditions*:**

Trinity Aquifer
The DFC shall allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 30 feet through 2080, relative to 2008 water-level conditions, (throughout GMA 9) consistent with "Scenario 6" in TWDB GAM Task 10-005 (Original well locations/pumping volumes).

Bandera County:
Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 29 feet through 2080.

Bexar County:
Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 46 feet through 2080.

Blanco County:
Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 19 feet through 2080.

Comal County:
Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 24 feet through 2080.

Hays County:
Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 19 feet through 2080.

Kendall County:
Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 29 feet through 2080.

Kerr County:
Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 39 feet through 2080.

Medina County:
Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 16 feet through 2080.

Travis County:
Allow for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 28 feet through 2080.

Edwards Group of the Trinity Aquifer
The DFC shall allow for no net increase in average drawdown in Bandera and Kendall Counties through 2080.

Ellenburger-San Saba Aquifer
The DFC shall allow for an increase in average drawdown of no more than 16 Feet in Kendall County and no more than 11 feet in Kerr County through 2080 consistent with Scenario 3 of the March 9, 2024, Technical Memorandum titled "Evaluation of Water Level Change Due to Potential Pumping in Ellenburger Unit in Blanco, Kendall, and Kerr Counties from End of 2010 to End of 2080 Using Llano Uplift Minor Aquifers Groundwater Availability Model."

Hickory Aquifer
The DFC shall allow for an increase in average drawdown of no more than 16 Feet in Kendall County through 2080 consistent with Scenario 3 of the March 9, 2024 Technical Memorandum titled "Evaluation of Water Level Change Due to Potential Pumping in Ellenburger Unit in Blanco, Kendall, and Kerr Counties from End of 2010 to End of 2080 Using Llano Uplift Minor Aquifers Groundwater Availability Model."

*Based on the principle of using the GAM as a joint planning tool and the fact that the GAM predictions contain uncertainty, GAM 9 considers the DFCs to be compatible and physically possible if the difference between modeled drawdown results and the DFC drawdown targets are within a 10 percent variance for all aquifers in the GAM simulation.

(3) The following aquifers are non-relevant for the Joint Planning purpose of adopting Desired Future Conditions in GMA 9, as the GMA 9 Districts determined that aquifer characteristics, groundwater demands, and current groundwater uses do not warrant adoption of a desired future condition for the:

Non-Relevant Aquifers	Applicable Areas Within GMA-9
Edwards Aquifer (Balcones Fault Zone)	Bexar, Comal, Hays, and Travis counties
Edwards Group of the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau)	Blanco and Kerr counties
Ellenburger-San Saba	Blanco County
Hickory	Blanco, Hays, Kerr, and Travis counties
Marble Falls	Blanco County (entire GMA)

4) **The desired future conditions of the aquifer(s) adopted by the GMA 9 Districts, along with the explanatory report adopted and attached hereto as Exhibit B, and proof of the notice of the meeting in which desired future conditions adoption occurred, shall be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board and sent to the GMA 9 Districts, as required by Section 36.108(d-3), Texas Water Code.**

PASSED AND APPROVED this 17th day of November, 2026

_____

Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District, Chair, Micah Voulgaris

_____

Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District, Vice Chair, Amanda Maloukis

_____

Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District, David Mauk

_____

Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District, Erik Kubinski

_____

Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Carl Haack

_____

Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Laura Thomas

_____

Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District, Monica Thibodeaux

_____

Medina County Groundwater Conservation District, David Caldwell

_____

Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District, Lane Cockrell

Groundwater Management Area 9
Joint Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes

On Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. at the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District, 9 Toepperwein Rd, Boerne, TX 78006, the designated representatives of the Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) within Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA 9) convened in a regular meeting, at which time the following items were discussed, and action was taken with the following:

1. Call to Order.
   M. Voulgaris, GMA 9 Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.
   The GMA 9 Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Establishment of a Quorum and receipt of posted open meeting notices
   M. Voulgaris stated that 7 out of 9 GCD's were present in person and 2 were present virtually, which established a quorum. All 9 GCDs posted the Meeting Agenda and Micah Voulgaris posted at the Secretary of State's office.

4. Introductions.
   The attending Board Presidents or Designated Representatives (DR) introduced themselves:

   1) Hays Trinity GCD- Laura Thomas, GM, DR (Virtually)
   2) Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District- Dave Mauk, GM, DR
   3) Blanco-Pedernales GCD – Erik Kubinski, GM, DR
   4) Headwaters GCD – Monica Thibodeaux, GM, DR
   5) Cow Creek GCD -Micah Voulgaris, GM, DR
   6) Comal Trinity GCD- Carl Haak, GM,DR
   7) Trinity Glen Rose GCD - Amanda Maloukis, GM, DR
   8) Southwest Travis County GCD – Lane Cockrell, GM, DR (Virtually)
   9) Medina County GCD – David Caldwell, GM, DR

5. Public Comment.
   None.

6. Review and consider the minutes of the September 29th, 2026 GMA 9 meeting.
   A. Maloukis made the motion to approve the September 29th, 2026 GMA 9 meeting minutes, C. Haak seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

7. Discussion and possible action under §36.108, Texas Water Code, regarding joint planning of groundwater conservation districts in Groundwater Management Area 9, the accomplishments of and issues facing the management area, and information related to

proposals to adopt new or amend existing desired future conditions. Groundwater availability models and other data or information for the management area may be discussed in relation to the discussion and adoption of the desired future conditions for the relevant aquifers within the management area, including the considerations listed under §36.108(d), Texas Water Code.

Item 7 was opened in conjunction with item 8.

8. Review Draft "Groundwater Management Area 9 2026 Explanatory Report for Desired Future Conditions for Major and Minor Aquifers."

   Velma Danielson presented a brief overview to orient the committee with the contents of the Explanatory Report. She explained that the Explanatory Report is a cumulation of the work and discussions that have happened during this planning cycle. The board will adopt the final DFC's and Explanatory Report on November 17th and the consultants will work with the Chair to submit to TWDB.

9. Discussion and possible action related to the new Southern Trinity GAM and the upcoming 5th round of Joint Planning.
   Micah Voulgaris stated that he and James Beach will meet with TWDB next week to discuss the next steps on calibrating the new model.

10. Sub-committee updates related to:
    a. Public Outreach Subcommittee
    b. Technical Subcommittee
    c. Management Plan and Rules Subcommittee
    d. Regional Planning Group Subcommittee
    e. Drawdown Subcommittee

    Micah Voulgaris discussed having a manager's meeting to discuss Chapter 36 Rules, outside of GMA 9.

11. Comments and updates from TWDB and GMA 9 representatives on the joint planning process and other correspondence and announcements.
    Jennifer Badwhar with TWDB stated that the Texas Water Supply Corporation Grants were available and closing applications soon.

12. Public comment.
    None.

13. Establish date, time, and place of next meeting and discuss potential agenda items.
    The next meeting will be held November 17th, 2026.

14. Adjournment

Adjourned by consensus at 10:43 A.M.

Approved by the GMA-9 Joint Planning Committee on November 17**, 2026,**

Attest: _____
Micah Voulgaris, Chairman

Attest: _____
Amanda Maloukis, Vice Chair

Outlook

FW: Management Plan reviews

From Micah Voulgaris <manager@ccgcd.org>
Date Mon 2026-11-16 14:32
To Erik Kubinski <gm@blancogroundwatertx.gov>

From: Jennifer Badhwar <Jennifer.Badhwar@twdb.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 12:32 PM
To: Micah Voulgaris <manager@ccgcd.org>
Cc: Robert Bradley <Robert.Bradley@twdb.texas.gov>; Monique Norman <norman.law@earthlink.net>; manager@tgrgcd.org
Subject: RE: Management Plan reviews

Hi Micah,

Yes, based on my reading of §36.108, the management plan review requirement is no longer an annual requirement and is to be conducted at least once during a five-year period.

Earlier versions of the statute linked management plan reviews to annual joint planning. The current language separates the annual meeting requirement from the management plan review requirement and instead specifies an applicable five-year period.

As a result, my interpretation is that management plans must be reviewed at least once during the applicable five-year period described in subsection (d). My initial reading is that the five-year period aligns with the recurring dates established in subsection (d) (e.g., May 1, 2021- May 1, 2026; May 1, 2026- May 1, 2031, etc.), which also corresponds to the deadlines for proposing DFCs. However, the statute does not expressly state how the applicable five-year period should be measured or whether it is intended to correspond to another planning milestone.

That said, it may be beneficial for GMAs to review management plans more frequently. Since §36.108 also requires annual meetings to review GMA accomplishments, management plan reviews could be incorporated into those discussions a matter of practice.

As always, legal counsel is best positioned to advise on compliance with statutory requirements.

Hope that helps. We'll also check with our counsel regarding the interpretation and see if there are any additional thoughts or considerations to add.

Jennifer Badhwar, P.G.
Groundwater Technical Assistance Team
Texas Water Development Board
Office: (512) 475-1626
Jennifer.Badhwar@twdb.texas.gov

From: Micah Voulgaris <manager@ccgcd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2026 10:55 AM

To: Jennifer Badhwar <Jennifer.Badhwar@twdb.texas.gov>
Cc: Robert Bradley <Robert.Bradley@twdb.texas.gov>; Monique Norman <norman.law@earthlink.net>; manager@tgrgcd.org
Subject: Management Plan reviews

External: Beware of links/attachments.

Jennifer,
Just to confirm what we discussed after the GMA9 meeting, we are only required to review the management plans "not less than once during each five-year period..", correct?
So we have meet the statutory requirement for this cycle?

Thanks,
Cow Creek GCD
Micah Voulgaris
General Manager

P.O. Box 1557
Boerne, TX 78006
C: 830-446-9782
O: 830-816-2504

www.ccgcd.org

Blanco-Pedernales GCD

Record Management

1

Why it matters

- Know what records we create
- Store them correctly
- Retain and dispose of them properly

Our responsibility

- Managing official records
- Storing them correctly
- Disposing of them legally



GOAL

Goal today

- Make retention clear & easy

2

Why Records Management Matters



- Legal Compliance
  - Required by TSLAC & Texas Gov. Code
- Transparency & public trust
  - Supports Public Information Act



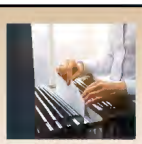
- Operational efficiency
  - Faster retrieval, fewer lost files



- Risk reduction
  - Protects against penalties & audit issues
- District continuity
  - Preserves essential & historical records

3

What is TSLAC's definition of a Record?



- Information created, received, used, or maintained by the District
- Documents district business or use of public resources
- **Any format:** paper, digital, email, photos, maps, data



What is NOT a record?

- Reference materials
- Convenience copies
- Personal notes
- Blank forms

4

Official Records vs Convenience Copies

Official Records

- Created or received **as part of district business**
- Must be kept for the **full retention period**
- Stored in official folders

Examples:

- Permit Applications
- Well Registrations
- Board Packets
- Water Quality Results
- Emails documenting District Business

Unsure?

Convenience Copies

- Extra copies made **for reference only**
- Can be deleted **anytime**
- Not stored in official folders

Examples:

- Printed board packet for a meeting
- Copy of a report saved on desktop
- Duplicate PDF
- Drafts that were replaced by a final version

ASK DANIELLE!

5

The Records Life Cycle

Creation	Use & Maintenance	Disposition
Well Registration Received	Stored in HUB and used for district business	Destroyed or archived after retention requirements are met
Board Agenda Created	Used for meetings and public access	Retained for 2 years
Water Quality Results Received	Filed and referenced as needed	Destroyed or archived after retention period

6

@ BPGCD-

GR — Common to All Local Governments (Primary Schedule)

- Financial records (invoices, deposits, CAD revenue)
- Personnel files, payroll records, Training records
- Board packets
- Public Information Act requests
- General correspondence
- Board minutes and agendas

PW — Records of Public Works and other Government services

- Monitor well data
- Water Quality Sampling Reports
- Water Availability Reports
- Permit and Registration Applications
- Management Plans development records
- Production Reports
- Desired Future Conditions support records

Looking Ahead- A Records Control Schedule identifies the records created by the Organization (BPGCD) and connects them to the appropriate retention requirements.

MY GOAL- Create a Records Control Schedule that better reflects the records used and maintained by BPGCD

7

WHO DO I CONTACT?

Records Management Officer (RMO) — Erik

- Required by TSLAC
- Oversees the District's records management program

Records Manager — Danielle

- Assists staff with retention questions
- Helps staff identify official records
- Coordinates record destruction and compliance efforts

Questions? Ask Danielle!

8

Staff Responsibilities for Records

1. Create records properly — *Ask Danielle when unsure*
   - Use clear names & correct folders
2. Keep official records separate
   - Don't mix with convenience copies
3. Follow retention rules
   - Know what must be kept vs. tossed
4. Don't delete or destroy records
   - Unless retention is met AND approved

9

Managing Electronic Records

- **Official records can be digital**
  - Emails, PDFs, pictures, videos
- **Avoid personal devices & personal cloud storage**
  - Important District records should not be stored only on personal devices
- **Metadata matters**
  - File name, date, creator, folder location
- **Store records in approved locations**
  - Shared drives, official folders
- **Maintain version control**
  - Keep one official version
- **Electronic records follow the SAME retention rules**
  - Digital ≠ disposable

10

If I was out of the office tomorrow, could someone find this record?

Save It Correctly

- Store records in the HUB
- Use department folders
- Avoid desktop-only storage

Organize It

- File promptly
- Use existing folders
- Avoid duplicates

Name It Correctly

- 20260084 Well Reg- Smith
- 20261015 Agenda
- FY27 Budget

Before Deleting, ask...

- Official Record?
- Retention met?
- Only copy?
- PIA pending?

Good records management saves time and protects the District.

11

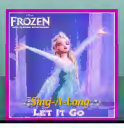
Record Destruction

- Retention must be met first
- Official approval required
- Document the destruction
- Destroy the official version only
- Use correct methods

Good Records Management Includes Letting Go!

When in doubt....

ASK DANIELLE!



12

COOPERATIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT OPPORTUNITY: PEDERNALES WATERSHED

October 26, 2026

hill country alliance

Agenda

- Intros
- Why we're here: Cooperative Watershed Management Grant
- Background: Pedernales Watershed Research and Conservation Efforts
- Discussion
- Next Steps

Cooperative Watershed Management Grant

- WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage American Resources for Tomorrow) is a federal program run by the Bureau of Reclamation that provides competitive grants and financial assistance to improve water management and conserve water in the 17 Western United States.
- The Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) contributes to the WaterSMART strategy by providing funding to watershed groups to encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions to address their water management needs. Funding is provided on a competitive basis for: **Watershed Group Development and Watershed Restoration Planning.**
- Up to $300,000 in grants (no match required)
- Application due February 2027



Source: Landowner Guide, Hill Country Alliance 2019



A **watershed** encompasses all the land, surface water, and the underground aquifers and soil moisture beneath that drains to a common outlet.

During an average rainfall year the drainage area of the Pedernales contributes 72,000 acre feet of water to the Trinity and Edwards Trinity aquifers.

PEDERNALES RIVER BASIN QUICK FACTS

DRAINAGE AREA
1,280 square miles (819,200 acres)

MAJOR AQUIFERS
Edwards - Trinity and Trinity

MINOR AQUIFERS
Ellenburger - San Saba and the Hickory

HOME TO RARE SPECIES
19 plants, 34 fish, and 6 salamander species

SPRINGS
1,272 springs, with 75% located in Travis County

COMMUNITIES
*Johnson City (pop. 1,785), Fredericksburg (pop. 10,829), Round Mountain (pop. 181), Stonewall (pop. 469), Hye (estimated pop. 105), Harper (pop. 1,006), Briarcliff (pop. 1,438)**

PARKS*
LBJ National Historical Park, LBJ State Park and Historic Site, Pedernales River Nature Park, Pedernales Falls State Park, Westcave Preserve, Hamilton Pool Park, Reimers Ranch Park, and Pace Bend Park

**These are only a few examples and do not include city parks located within the watershed.*



Source: Landowner Guide, Hill Country Alliance 2019

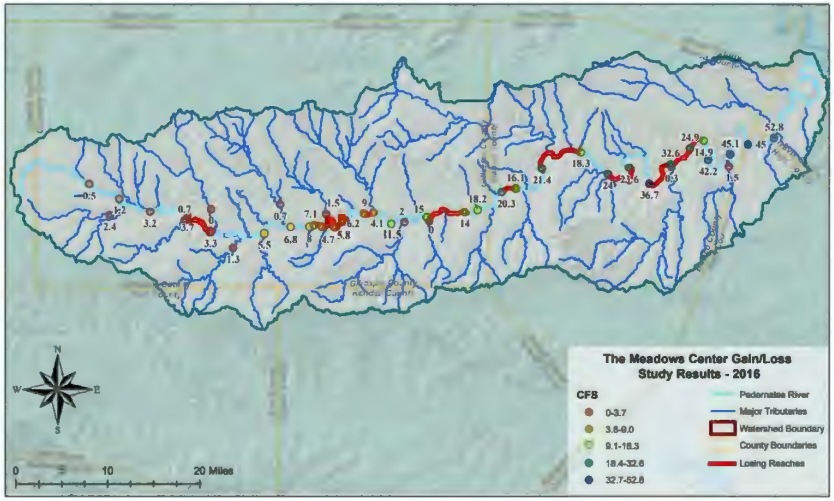


Figure 37. The Meadows Center Gain/Loss Study Discharge Results – 2016

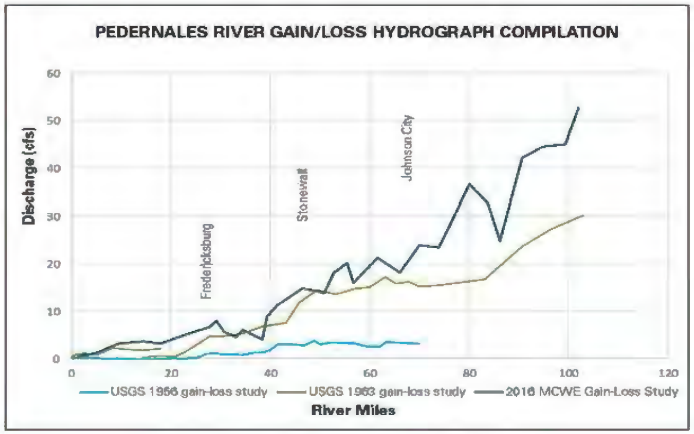
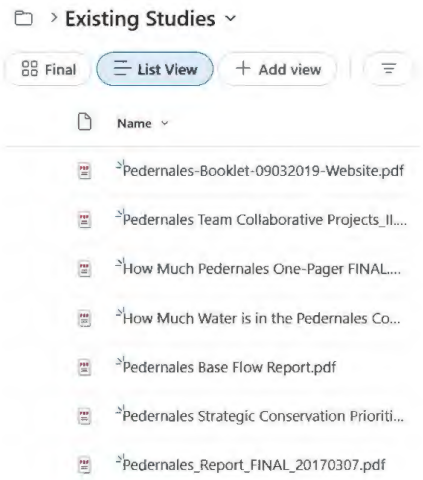


Figure 38. Pedernales River Gain/Loss Hydrograph Compilation

Source: Meadows Center, Pedernales Baseflow Study



Many, many studies….

View HERE.

Some conclusions

- Comparisons over the past 50 years indicate that the river is in good shape, with healthy and flowing waters
- Identified threats include:
  - Increased development --> increased groundwater pumping
  - Increased erosion and sediment in the river
  - Invasive species (e.g. Arundo) and ungulate overgrazing (e.g. Hogs)
  - Increased wastewater
  - Land use change --> loss of riparian habitat

Table 8 – Pedernales watershed and river threats

Threats	Location	Potential Water Impact	Potential Land Impact	Potential Strategy/Approach
Limited knowledge of surface – groundwater interaction	Entire basin	Limits ability to define priority spring sources and areas	Landowners unaware of land/water connection could conduct activities that diminish springs and flows that adversely impact land, vegetation	Conduct gain-loss study with groundwater well monitoring
Population growth and land development	Fredericksburg and Johnson City areas	Increased water demands, reduced recharge, reduced aquifer levels, impaired water quality	Loss of ranchland, reduction in recharge areas with impervious cover, soil loss, vegetation loss	Incentives/credits to conserve water and enhance recharge
Aquifer Desired Future Condition (DFC) 30-foot drawdown over next 50 years	Blanco and Travis Counties (GMA 9)	Significant reduction in spring and river flows	Reduced vegetation	Conduct gain-loss study with groundwater monitoring to inform GMA 9
Invasive species – Arundo donax (Giant Cane)	Along river and tributaries	Reduction in flow	Reduce native species	Complete mapping and initiate management practices. Provide guidance to riparian landowners
Ashe juniper (cedar)	Primarily eastern basin	Increased evapotranspiration, potential reduced water recharge	Reduced native grasses/vegetation and increased soil erosion	Brush management programs, land owner guidance
Sand/gravel activity in river/tributaries	All river and tributaries	Impaired water quality, adversely impacted riparian areas	Soil erosion/vegetation loss	Adoption of LCRA Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance Quarry Regulations
Land fragmentation	Entire basin	Increased water demands, increased septic systems	Increase brush cover, restrict wildlife movement	Expand conservation easement programs, landowner technical assistance
Wastewater discharges to river and tributaries	Fredericksburg and Johnson City	Reduced water quality	Create hyper-eutrophic conditions that facilitate excessive plant growth, loss of native species	Expanded wastewater reuse for beneficial purposes
Improper land use/management and construction practices	Entire basin	Reduced water quality, water quantity, adversely impacted riparian areas	Degraded riparian and recharge areas, reduced land productivity	Implementation of Conservation Strategies and Management Measures/Practices

Source:
"*How much water is in the Pedernales? Conservation Strategies, Management Approaches, and Action Plan*," Meadows Center, 2015

Pedernales Team

- Developed in 2013 year
- Included: agencies, landowners, government partners
- Collaborative projects identified in 2019:
  - **Conserve lands important to the Pedernales River's baseflow**
  - Enhance water quality by expanding wastewater reuse
  - Educate landowners on riparian stewardship and Arundo management
  - Managing native and introduced ungulates (e.g. hogs) that degrade terrestrial and aquatic habitat

Gaps in past efforts

- Implementation
  - No dedicated staff to manage collaborative efforts
- Community outreach
  - What is the significance of the Pedernales Watershed to community members in the more rural reaches? What is the motivation to preserving it?
- Comprehensive government involvement
  - What are the policy opportunities? Which of the strategies identified feel politically and financially feasible?

The Opportunity: CWMP Grant

Funding will allow us to:

- Hire someone local to convene and formalize the Pedernales Team
- Reassess watershed conditions
- Survey communities on their concerns and vision for the future of the watershed
- Hire a consultant to develop a watershed plan and identify priority strategies with stakeholder (your) input

… and prepare us to apply for future funding with the Bureau of Reclamation.

Enhancing Water Resources Program – Eligible Projects for $3M Phase 2 Funding

Example Projects

- Riparian restoration
- Invasive Species Removal
- Stormwater & drainage improvements (incl. targeted road improvements)
- Irrigation upgrades (through grants)
- Natural infrastructure (e.g. erosion control techniques)
- Rainwater Harvesting

What we're asking for

- Input on the scope of work for the grant application
- Participation in the Pedernales Team at some level
- Letters of support

Discussion

- What are you seeing on the ground? Do you have other concerns about the future of water in your communities?
- What questions do you have about this opportunity?
- What most excites you? What causes the most concern?
- Who else should we include in the conversation?

Next Steps (if moving forward)

- Engage TPWD, LCRA, and grassroots groups
- Draft grant application/narrative
- Reflect on time commitment
- Sign letters of support

Example Plans

great springs project

Lower Colorado River Watershed Restoration & Access Plan (WRAP)

"The purpose of the Lower Colorado Watershed Restoration and Access Plan is to bring together local and regional stakeholders to **articulate a vision** for projects and programs that **support healthy ecosystems and create access to the river** within the study area, and to recommend specific strategies, projects, and programs for achieving these outcomes."

"The Lower Colorado River Watershed Restoration and Access Plan (WRAP) will help guide the future of 27 miles of the Colorado River from the Longhorn Dam in Austin to Webberville Park in eastern Travis County. With **extensive input** from organizations and community members throughout the city and county, the WRAP will identify strategies, including specific projects, and programs, for **enhancing regional connectivity, ecological health, and community vitality** in the river corridor."

Source: WRAP Website



Using Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant funding, AWCA completed the Cooperative Watershed Management Plan for Aravaipa Canyon in 2023. This plan **documents the baseline watershed assessment**, presenting a collection of data to provide insights into key watershed conditions, like water quantity, water quality, land cover, geology, infrastructure, plants, and wildlife. We **worked with diverse stakeholders to identify and document desired conditions**, and will develop project implementation plans to address these conditions.

Revision:
AWCA has released our first revision to the Cooperative Watershed Management Plan for Aravaipa Canyon in March of 2026. This revision was made possible through our second Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant, with two additional revisions expected through 2027. Updates to the plan include **expanded discussion of regional water budget and groundwater flows**, incorporation of new concerns into project areas, project area ranking, and status of ongoing projects.

Source: Aravaipa Watershed Conservation Alliance

Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable
INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

USING SCIENCE AND COMMUNITY INPUT TO
BUILD A HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE WATER FUTURE IN THE YAMPA BASIN

32
Millions of dollars in annual sales of Yampa basin agricultural products

765
Number of jobs related to Yampa River recreation

37
Percent decline of Yampa River base flows from 1922–2013

"The Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable (YWG BRT) is leading the development of an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP). The process will combine community input with science and engineering assessments to **identify actions to protect existing and future water uses and support healthy river ecosystems in the face of growing populations, changing land uses, and climate uncertainty.** This is a community effort, led by people who live and work here in the Yampa Valley, and care about the river and its future.

WHO IS INVOLVED A committee of volunteers selected by and reporting to the YWG BRT coordinates the project. Committee members have experience in water management, agriculture, fisheries and recreation. The project also relies on hired community engagement, river science and engineering professionals."

Source: Yampa Watershed Planning Fact Sheet or see full plan here

Appendix



Approximately 23% of the annual inflow to Lake Travis is from the Pedernales River. Approximately half of this inflow (12%) originates from groundwater.

Source: "How much water is in the Pedernales?" Meadows Center, 2017

Mission Statements

Pedernales Soil and Water Conservation District

"Assist landowners with their conservation needs"

Delivering *"a local program, based on local needs, that best conserves and promotes the wise and judicious use of renewable natural resources"* and working to *"combat soil and water erosion and to enhance water quality and quantity in the state."*

Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District

"The District is responsible for the conservation, preservation, protection, and recharge of groundwater and aquifers within Blanco County."

To accomplish these goals, the District will work to minimize the drawdown of the water table, minimize the reduction of artesian pressure, control subsidence, prevent interference between wells, prevent the degradation of the quality of groundwater, prevent waste of groundwater, preserve historic use of groundwater, give consideration to the service needs of retail water utilities, and carry out the powers and duties conferred under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code.

Key Distinction: The SWCD mission focuses on landowner assistance and surface-level conservation planning, while BPGCD's mission centers on groundwater regulation, aquifer protection, and statutory duties under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code.

The Key Differences

Dimension	Pedernales SWCD	BPGCD
Resource focus	Soil, surface water, and working lands	Groundwater and aquifers
Enabling law	Agricultural Code (SWCD network)	Water Code Chapter 36
Age	1944, a Dust Bowl-era institution	2001, modern era of aquifer management
Primary tool	Voluntary assistance: conservation plans, cost-shares, WQMPs	Regulation: well permitting, production limits, drought rules
State/federal partners	TSSWCB and USDA-NRCS	TWDB, TCEQ, and Groundwater Management Area 9
Revenue	Primarily grants and assistance programs	Ad valorem tax authority approved by voters
Audience	Landowners and agricultural producers	Well owners and groundwater users countywide

Mission Overlaps: BPGCD ↔ Blanco County SWCD

BPGCD mission ends where PSWCD begins. BPGCD measure the underground; PSWCD manages the surface. Together we close the loop on the full water cycle in Blanco County.

Core Water Goals

- Both work to protect the Trinity and Ellenburger-San Saba aquifers
- Both prioritize drought resilience and sustainable water use
- Both monitor and respond to regional water stress

Land Management Impact

- Brush control reduces pumping demand and improves infiltration
- Native grass restoration increases soil moisture and recharge
- Riparian health protects surface-water quality that exchanges with groundwater
- Abandoned well plugging prevents contamination of both aquifers

Producer Relationships

- Both rely on voluntary participation from landowners and ranchers
- Both conduct workshops, field days, and outreach events
- Both serve rural residents who depend on private wells

Funding and Grants

- Both qualify for similar state grant programs (TWDB, TSSWCB)
- Both leverage USDA-NRCS programs on the ground
- Joint partnerships strengthen competitive grant applications

Data and Monitoring

- SWCD tracks soil health and land treatment acres
- BPGCD tracks well levels, pumping data, and aquifer trends
- Combined data shows how land practices affect groundwater outcomes

Public Trust and Transparency

- Both are public agencies accountable to voters and landowners
- Both report to their boards on progress and expenditures
- Both communicate drought stages, restrictions, and conservation tips

Possible Joint Projects: BPGCD + Pedernales SWCD

Tier 1: Immediate Actions

1. **Joint Drought Workshop Series** — Co-hosted landowner education on drought management, aquifer conditions, and conservation practices
2. **Rainwater Harvesting Cost-Share Pilot** — Jointly funded incentives for tank and collection system installation, reducing aquifer pumping
3. **Brush Management for Water Yield** — Cost-share for selective juniper (cedar) control to improve soil moisture and recharge, with baseline monitoring

Tier 2: Follow-On Initiatives

4. **Native Grassland Restoration** — Reseeding deep-rooted natives to slow runoff and increase infiltration
5. **Riparian Restoration** — Streambank stabilization along the Pedernales River and tributaries
6. **Abandoned Well Plugging Program** — Shared outreach and cost-sharing to seal contamination pathways to the Trinity and Ellenburger-San Saba aquifers
7. **Recharge Feature Protection** — Identifying and fencing caves, sinkholes, and fractures in Ellenburger carbonate terrain

Tier 3: Long-Term Initiatives

8. **Demonstration Site with Annual Field Day** — A showcase property featuring integrated conservation practices
9. **Soil Health + Groundwater Monitoring Network** — Combined data tracking to quantify how land management affects recharge
10. **Joint Grant Administration** — Coordinated applications to TWDB, TSSWCB, and NRCS programs

Quick-start recommendation: Begin with the drought workshops (nearly zero cost, immediate value during Stage 3 drought), then bundle the rainwater harvesting and brush management cost-shares as the flagship joint grant application, since both deliver measurable, landowner-friendly results.

The Official Cybersecurity Summit

CYBERSECURITY SUMMIT – HOUSTON

11/12/2026 | Westin Galleria Houston

8:00 – 9:00 AM	**Networking Breakfast**
9:00 – 9:10 AM	**Welcome** *J.D. Miller, SVP, Communities Event Programming - CyberRisk Alliance*
9:10 – 9:40 AM	**Fireside chat: Building a Security Culture around Real People** *Dustin Sachs, CISO-in-Residence - CyberRisk Collaborative; Bryan Perkola, Senior VP of Information Security - First Community Credit Union*
9:40 – 10:00 AM	**Securiti AI Presentation: Securing the Future of AI Agents** *Jack Berkowitz, Chief Data Officer, Securiti AI - a Veeam company*
10:00 – 10:20 AM	**Netskope Presentation: Engineering for Yes: Building the Framework for a Secure Enterprise-Wide AI Adoption** *Jarrett Avery, Director, Solutions Engineering - Netskope*
10:20 – 10:30 AM	**Innovation Spotlight - AI vs AI** *Kab Burgess, Head of Business Development - Sublime Security*
10:30 – 10:50 AM	**Data Security & Agent Governance** *Thangaraj Petchiappan, Vice Chair Houston - IEEE*
10:50 – 11:15 AM	**Networking Break**
11:15 – 11:55 AM	**Panel Discussion: AI and Emerging Tech at the 2026 Security Frontline** *J.D. Miller, SVP, Communities Event Programming - CyberRisk Alliance; Morgan McGowan, Director Advanced Security Sales - Comcast Business; Brent Feller, Senior Director, Solutions Architecture – eSentire; Thangaraj Petchiappan, Vice Chair Houston – IEEE; Seth Summerseti, CEO & Co-Founder - Embed Security; Paul Kenniston, Senior Director, Systems Engineering - North America Enterprise - A10 Networks*
11:55 – 12:15 PM	**Rubrik Presentation: AI Resilience in the Era of the Autonomous Enterprise** *Paul Si Vil, Field CTO, AI - Rubrik*
12:15 – 12:35 PM	**Houston, We Have a Pattern: What the Space Race Reveals About the AI Revolution** *Dustin Sachs, CISO-in-Residence - CyberRisk Collaborative*
12:35 – 12:45 PM	**Innovation Spotlight - Turning Attackers into Signals: How Deception Changes Modern Threat Detection** *Roderick Spencer, Sales Engineer - Fidelis Security*
12:45 – 1:35 PM	**Lunch**
1:35 – 2:05 PM	**Panel Discussion: Securing the Extended Ecosystem: Supply Chains, Vendors, and Identities** *J.D. Miller, SVP, Communities Event Programming - CyberRisk Alliance; Jasmin Cattanach, Executive Board Officer and Secretary - ISACA Greater Houston Chapter; Michael Gregg, Field CISO/Strategist - Palo Alto Networks | ISACA Houston; Daryl Riley, Vice President - ISACA GHC; Kevin Jimenez, BDPA Houston | Information Security Officer - Prairie View A&M University*
2:05 – 2:15 PM	**Innovation Spotlight - 5 Risk Pitfalls to Avoid in Today's AI Era** *Colin Brown, Account Executive | TX - Veeam Software*
2:15 – 2:25 PM	**Innovation Spotlight - AI Will Find Your Sensitive Data. The Question is Whether you Will First** *EJ Pappas, Field CTO - PKWARE*
2:25 – 2:35 PM	**Innovation Spotlight - Defining Cyber Skills in Demand** *Seth Robinson, VP Research - CompTIA*
2:35 – 3:00 PM	**Networking Break**
3:00 – 3:30 PM	**Panel Discussion: The Power of Diversity in Cybersecurity: Building Smarter, Stronger Teams** *J.D. Miller, SVP, Communities Event Programming - CyberRisk Alliance; Angelique Grado, Board Member - ISSA South Texas Chapter; Laikeem Duporte, Security Analyst - Prairie View A&M University; Daryl Riley, Vice President - ISACA GHC; Wendy Albert, Vice President - WiCys Houston Affiliate*
3:30 – 3:40 PM	**Innovation Spotlight - Cyber Recovery: Two teams. One mission** *Torry Williams, Lead Solutions Architect - 11:11 Systems*
3:40 – 3:50 PM	**Innovation Spotlight - Arctic Wolf 2026 Threat Report** *Grant Gowery, Account Executive - Arctic Wolf*
3:50 – 4:10 PM	**Closing Governement Keynote Presentation - CISA** *Deron McElroy, Chief of Cybersecurity - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)*
4:10 – 4:40 PM	**Networking Reception**

Outlook

RE: BPGCD Followup

From Lynn Haag <Lynn@engineeraustin.com>
Date Wed 2026-11-11 09:36
To Erin Elizabeth <erin.elizabeth@blancogroundwatertx.gov>; Erik Kubinski <gm@blancogroundwatertx.gov>; Office Manager <office@blancogroundwatertx.gov>
Cc Ben Mineo <Ben@engineeraustin.com>

Erin and Erik,
Thank you for following up, and I apologize for the delay in addressing Erik's October 23 questions. These items are on my radar, and I appreciate the detailed overview. Below are my initial recommendations.

1. Server vs. NAS

Based on your cloud-based workflow, I recommend a NAS for local backup storage rather than a traditional server. We would configure scheduled backups, protected snapshots where supported, and restricted access. It would serve as a recovery resource rather than another shared drive. Happy to discuss options.

2. Off-site staff security

I would prioritize securing the district's devices and cloud access. A VPN alone does not make a home computer secure, and it is generally unnecessary for accessing cloud services.
Your existing Microsoft 365 Business Premium licensing gives us a strong starting point for MFA, Conditional Access, Intune device management, and endpoint protection. We should configure and verify those protections, with staff using district-managed devices for remote work.

3. Board access

I recommend a dedicated SharePoint site for board papers, with board members granted read-only access through a security group. Staff would manage the documents, and board access would remain separate from employee files. This also avoids tying district records to an individual employee's OneDrive. Retention settings should follow your adopted records retention schedule.

4. Electronic payments

QuickBooks-hosted payment links would allow customers to enter their payment information directly with the processor, reducing staff handling of sensitive information.
I also recommend MFA on financial accounts, separate user accounts with appropriate permissions, and callback verification using a known phone number before changing banking or payment instructions. We can review email protections and discuss ACH controls with your bank. Your team should review any proposed convenience fees if needed.

5. Disaster recovery and business continuity

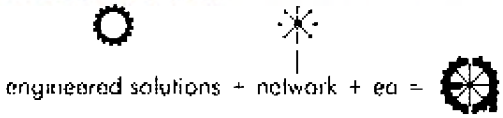
Your proposed ransomware-focused starting scope makes sense. I would structure the initial work around defined deliverables:

- An inventory of critical systems, data, vendors, and administrative access.
- Recovery priorities and acceptable downtime and data-loss limits, with well records first.
- A review of backup coverage and documented test restores.
- A short incident response and communications plan.
- A tabletop exercise to walk through the recovery process.

This gives you a practical starting plan that we can expand over time.

6. Backup verification and independence
I recommend establishing a baseline restore test, followed by quarterly tests with documented results and recovery times.
We should inspect the existing Azure backup service, its permissions, retention, and deletion protections before determining whether another layer is needed. OneDrive synchronization alone should not be treated as an independent backup.
For Hydros and QuickBooks Online, we should confirm available backup and export options and document how the district could access essential records if either service became unavailable. Your paper well files provide a valuable independent reference, although they do not replace recovery of the electronic systems.
Ongoing security and support
Alongside this work, I recommend coordinated protection for account takeover, fraudulent email, and ransomware, optional state-certified cybersecurity awareness training for applicable staff and board members. We would review your existing Microsoft capabilities before recommending additional subscriptions.
We can perform the initial assessment and planning on a time-and-materials basis under the signed rate sheet and/or we can discuss the annual managed service option is also worth comparing for recurring monitoring, backup testing, access reviews, and training. Hardware, subscriptions, and one-time projects would be identified separately.
Thank you again for your patience. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.
Respectfully,
Lynn

Lynn Haag, P.E.
Professional Engineer
President,
Engineer Austin
Engineer Austin, LLC
A Texas Licensed Engineering Firm
Business Information Systems Engineer
Lynn@engineeraustin.com
765.532.2710m Skype: Lynn.Haag
512.481.2710w



Private and confidential as detailed here. If you cannot access hyperlink, please email sender.

From: Erin Elizabeth <erin.elizabeth@blancogroundwatertx.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2026 10:19 AM
To: Erik Kubinski <gm@blancogroundwatertx.gov>; Lynn Haag <Lynn@engineeraustin.com>; Office Manager <office@blancogroundwatertx.gov>
Subject: BPGCD Followup

Hello Lynn,
I'd like to follow up today on the additions listed below and last mentioned by Erik on 10/23/2026. We hope not to get lost in the shuffle and Erik still wants these items addressed. Please advise?

Workflow

Staff work primarily out of OneDrive for shared documents, QuickBooks Online for finances, and Hydros for all well-related data, with Azure handling backups. Board meeting minutes run through ClerkMinutes. Email is hosted by Streamline, and phone service runs over VoIP

through Hill Country Wireless. Well records are our most critical data, and we maintain hard-copy paper archives of all well files as a physical backup with retention schedules following TSLAC guidance and the Texas Government Code.

These are items I've been pondering and would value your input on:

1. **Server vs. NAS** - Given our largely cloud-based workflows, which direction makes more sense for us, and why?
2. **Off-site staff security** - For the 3 staff who occasionally work from home, our interest in remote accessibility is primarily network-level protection - we don't consider home networks/devices to be secure and want their access protected comparably to being on-site. Is a VPN back to district resources the right approach, or would hardening their cloud access (MFA, conditional access, Intune device enrollment in our existing Microsoft 365 Business Premium) serve us better?
3. **Board member OneDrive sharing** - What's the best practice for granting board members narrow, board-papers-only access to our shared OneDrive while keeping everything else locked down?
4. **Electronic payments rollout** - As we move to accepting ACH and card payments through QBO, how could technology serve us better here to manage risk and verification?
5. **DR/BC starting scope** - We intend to start with a narrow, ransomware-focused scope (backup verification, recovery objectives, MFA/access control, basic incident response, and communication steps) and build out over time. Does that seem like the right first slice, or would you structure the starting point differently? We're comfortable with a T&M arrangement as long as it includes defined deliverables.

6. **Backup verification and independence** - How should we establish and schedule test restores to prove our Azure and OneDrive backups actually work? Relatedly, are our Azure backups sufficiently independent of Microsoft 365 itself to protect against tenant-wide compromise or ransomware, or should we add another layer? And what are our options for backing up data held in Hydros and QuickBooks Online if those vendors ever became unavailable?

Take care,

Erin Elizabeth

Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District
erin.elizabeth@blancogroundwatertx.gov
Office: 601 West Main Street, Johnson City, Texas 78636
Office: 830-868-9196
blancogroundwatertx.gov

** Drillers must notify our office 24-hours before drilling begins! **

From: Erik Kubinski <gm@blancogroundwatertx.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2026 6:02 PM
To: Lynn Haag <lynn@engineeraustin.com>
Cc: Erin Elizabeth <erin.elizabeth@blancogroundwatertx.gov>
Subject: Next steps

Lynn,

Thanks for the phone call earlier today. As discussed, here is an overview of our district's operations and technology setup. Please use this as the baseline for developing our disaster recovery and business continuity procedures, and for your evaluation of whether a remotely accessible server or a NAS best fits our setup and workflows.

Organization

- 5 staff members (3 of whom occasionally work off-site from home offices)
- 5 board members (all have district email addresses)
- 1 General Counsel
- 1 consulting hydrogeologist

The board meets monthly and we'd like to extend their eMail only access to OneDrive access on a narrow basis for board papers only, using our shared employee OneDrive.

Hardware

- 3 all-in-one desktop computers
- 2 laptops
- 3 handheld VoIP phones and 2 desktop VoIP phones
-
- We are a Windows shop - no Apple products

Connectivity & Communications

- VoIP service is provided by a third party through Hill Country Wireless, which also supplies our internet via wireless
- Streamline (California-based) hosts our email and website

Core Software & Services

- **Microsoft 365 Business Premium** - primary productivity suite; the 5 employees share OneDrive extensively for document storage and collaboration
- **Adobe Acrobat Pro** - PDF workflows
- **Hydros (SaaS)** - all well registration, permits, and well information
- **QuickBooks Online** - all financials (payables, receivables, payroll, budgeting). We currently accept only physical checks but plan to begin accepting electronic payments through QBO (e.g., ACH bank transfers, credit/debit cards)
- **Azure** - cloud backup for email and files
- **Canva** - graphics and outreach materials
- **Checkr** - background screening
- **ClerkMinutes** - board meeting minutes and records management

- **Proton (Lumo)** - secure AI assistant
- **Amazon** - online purchasing

Workflow

Staff work primarily out of OneDrive for shared documents, QuickBooks Online for finances, and Hydros for all well-related data, with Azure handling backups. Board meeting minutes run through ClerkMinutes. Email is hosted by Streamline, and phone service runs over VoIP through Hill Country Wireless. Well records are our most critical data, and we maintain hard-copy paper archives of all well files as a physical backup with retention schedules following TSLAC guidance and the Texas Government Code.

These are items I've been pondering and would value your input on:

1. **Server vs. NAS** - Given our largely cloud-based workflows, which direction makes more sense for us, and why?
2. **Off-site staff security** - For the 3 staff who occasionally work from home, our interest in remote accessibility is primarily network-level protection - we don't consider home networks/devices to be secure and want their access protected comparably to being on-site. Is a VPN back to district resources the right approach, or would hardening their cloud access (MFA, conditional access, Intune device enrollment in our existing Microsoft 365 Business Premium) serve us better?
3. **Board member OneDrive sharing** - What's the best practice for granting board members narrow, board-papers-only access to our shared OneDrive while keeping everything else locked down?
4. **Electronic payments rollout** - As we move to accepting ACH and card payments through QBO, how could technology serve us better here to manage risk and verification?
5. **DR/BC starting scope** - We intend to start with a narrow, ransomware-focused scope (backup verification, recovery objectives, MFA/access control, basic incident response, and communication steps) and build out over time. Does that seem like the right first slice, or would you structure the starting point differently? We're comfortable with a T&M arrangement as long as it includes defined deliverables.

6. **Backup verification and independence** - How should we establish and schedule test restores to prove our Azure and OneDrive backups actually work? Relatedly, are our Azure backups sufficiently independent of Microsoft 365 itself to protect against tenant-wide compromise or ransomware, or should we add another layer? And what are our options for backing up data held in Hydros and QuickBooks Online if those vendors ever became unavailable?

Let me know what additional details you'd like.

Thank you.

Regards,

Erik Kubinski
General Manager
Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District
601 West Main Street
Johnson City, Texas 78636
830-868-9196

HILL COUNTRY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Local leaders
Regional challenges
Real solutions
Lasting relationships



The Hill Country is a region unlike any other in Texas—full of natural features, treasured places, charming communities, and a rich heritage. Today, the region faces numerous threats driven by rapid growth, land fragmentation, and unchecked development.

The Hill Country needs locally driven and balanced solutions to protect the ecological and economic health of this place we call home. Yet very few opportunities exist for leaders to connect, share, and generate new ideas.

For this reason, the Hill Country Alliance has developed a new leadership program especially for decision makers and elected leaders throughout the Texas Hill Country.

The **Hill Country Leadership Institute** is designed for city council members, county judges and commissioners, groundwater conservation district board members and general managers, and anyone serving in a public leadership role.

Past and present elected leaders, subject matter experts, and other professionals were involved in development of the Leadership Institute, and the inaugural class launched in January 2023.

Our purpose is to engage, empower, connect, and inspire local leaders dedicated to the long-term vitality of our unique 17-county region.

Participants can expect both professional and personal benefits.

- Develop strong, lasting relationships across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Discover what is working and what is not working in other communities.
- Learn from experts in an intimate and inspiring setting.
- Engage in problem solving and avoid the need to reinvent the wheel.
- Create actionable strategies for our region's most pressing issues.
- Participate in honest, trusted conversations about what is possible and what is needed.
- Take away tools—including model policies, funding opportunities, and case studies—ready to put to work in your community.



Plan for the 2027 Hill Country Leadership Institute

- The educational program will run for ten months—from January through October 2027.
- We will gather in person every third Thursday of the month at unique locations across the region.
- The first gathering is set for January 21, 2027, from 9am to 2pm at Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve in Blanco County.
- Maximum enrollment is 20 to deliver a personalized enriching experience.
- One full-day retreats is included for on-the-land learning in spring and fall.
- Brief topics to be offered as virtual lunch-and-learn sessions.
- Scheduled "office hours" are planned for deeper learning and one-on-one discussions.
- Breakout groups will be created to dive deeper on topics of interest.
- Ongoing engagement for three years beyond the conclusion of the program is encouraged and supported.
- Sliding scale enrollment from $500 to $1,000 depending on size of population served.

Core curriculum topics

- **Water infrastructure:** Long-range thinking about drinking water supply for our growing population. Sustainable and innovative wastewater solutions. Protecting pristine streams. One Water strategies. Regional water planning processes.
- **Development oversight:** The costs of sprawl vs planning for density close to existing infrastructure. Conservation development. Low-impact development. Development agreements. Special purpose districts.
- **Groundwater:** Groundwater management. Loss of springs. Working with groundwater conservation districts and understanding their Chapter 36 authority. Groundwater Management Areas and "Desired Future Conditions."
- **Planning:** Extents and limits of county authority. Municipal planning tools. Thoroughfare plans. Habitat conservation plans. Comprehensive planning and regional planning opportunities.
- **Land stewardship and conservation:** The land/water connection in the Hill Country. Private land stewardship opportunities. Conservation easements. Public funding for conservation.

Additional focus areas

Public health	Broadband infrastructure	Night skies
Workforce development	Heritage protection	Tourism
Workforce housing	Water quality	Working with TCEQ
Economic development	Incompatible land use	Industrial activities



The 2027 class of the Hill Country Leadership Institute is forming now!

Application and additional information are available at hillcountryalliance.org/leadershipinstitute

Applications are encouraged on or before November 15, 2026

For more information, contact Leah Cuddeback, leah@hillcountryalliance.org

The Hill Country Leadership Institute is a program of the Hill Country Alliance.

Hill Country Alliance is a 501c3 non-profit established in 2004, bringing together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and unique character of the Texas Hill Country.

hill country alliance



Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

Erik Kubinski

Has met the required standards for the completion of the

High Impact Presentations

As set forth by Dale Carnegie & Associates, Inc.
Program Code: 26RRHIP-03
Attested by Dale Carnegie & Associates, Inc., on November 5, 2026

President and CEO

Dale Carnegie® Training

GM Report # 39



AGENDA - 2026

ONE WATER IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

NOV. 18 | 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM | BLANCO COUNTY FAIR & RODEO, JOHNSON CITY

9:30 – 10:00 AM **Coffee and Registration**

10:00 – 10:20 **Welcome, Introductions, and Setting the Stage**

Learn how Boerne, Johnson City, and City of Blanco are thinking about One Water. Review the plan for the day, and learn who is in the room with you.

Joseph Macaluso, City Councilmember, City of Boerne
Stephanie Fisher, Mayor, City of Johnson City
Candy Cargill, Mayor, City of Blanco
Marisa Bruno, Water Program Manager, Hill Country Alliance

10:20 – 11:00 **Reuse Trends: A Statewide and Local Perspective**

Wastewater reuse is a growing trend across the state. Texas Living Waters will share the latest statistics on reuse from a new report, and Kerrville will share their experience with Indirect Potable Reuse.

Jennifer Walker, Senior Director, Texas Coast and Water Program
David Barrera, Director of Public Works, City of Kerrville

11:00 – 12:00 **Opportunities for Water Supply Regionalization: From Operations and Maintenance to Infrastructure Investments**

Learn from Water Finance Exchange about the different types of regionalization and how to fund them, along with case studies from Medina County and Presidio County. New Fairview will share their experience leveraging the Public Utility Agency structure to jointly manage water supplies with other cities.

Lia Clark, SVP of Technical Assistance, Water Finance Exchange
John Cabrales Jr., City Administrator, New Fairview & West Fork Public Utility Agency

12:00 – 12:45 **Lunch**

12:45 - 1:30 **Rainwater Harvesting: Incentives & Leading by Example**

Communities across Texas are increasingly embracing rainwater as an alternative supply to surface water and groundwater. In this panel, you'll learn about the role that education, grant programs and other incentives can play in promoting rainwater harvesting, and hear about public facilities that have embraced rainwater harvesting both for potable and nonpotable use.

Moderator: Suzanne Williams, Conservation Manager, Texas Water Company
Jill Garcia, Assistant General Manager, Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
Andrew Cummings, Director of Customer Solutions, New Braunfels Utilities

Michael Berlad, Interim Director of Development Services, Hays County
Sarah Kouba, General Manager, Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District

1:30 - 2:30 **Promoting Low Impact Development at the Regional Scale: The Regulator and Business Case**

In 2002, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) embarked on the journey of developing model Low Impact Development guidance and policies to be adopted by member cities and counties. This effort was initiated at the request of participating cities as a way of updating outdated and inconsistent local stormwater management standards, and helping with local compliance with new EPA stormwater permit requirements. In this session, you'll hear from NCTCOG about why it has been so effective. You will also hear from Greenrise Technologies about how LID can make good business sense for developers and communities when the right incentive programs are in place.

Susan Alvarez, Director, North Central Texas Council of Governments
Matthew Smith, Senior Stormwater Consultant, Greenrise Technologies

2:30 – 3:20 **Discussion: Opportunities for One Water & Paths Forward**

In breakout groups, discuss: Any One Water wins that your community is proud of? Are there opportunities to implement any of the topics discussed today? What might be some paths forward?

3:20 – 3:30 **Wrap up & New Resources**

Hosted by the City of Boerne, City of Johnson City, City of Blanco, Hill Country Alliance, and National Wildlife Federation.

SESSION TITLES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SCAN HERE

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM Networking, Breakfast & Check-In

8:30 AM - Welcome Address

8:35 AM - Morning Keynote Address

8:55 AM - The Importance of Conjunctive Use and the Role Surface Water Plays - A Panel Discussion with River Authorities.

9:40 AM - Groundwater Management: Navigating the Intersection of Policy, Planning, Conservation, and Growth- A Panel Discussion with Groundwater Conservation Districts.

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM - Networking & Morning Coffee Break

10:45 AM - Conservation Progress: A Panel Discussion on Successful Applications in Reclaim, Reuse, and Rainwater Harvesting.

11:25 AM - Chapter 36 Roundtable: Hot Topics in Texas Groundwater Law, an Attorney Panel Discussion.

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM – Catered Lunch & Montgomery County Water Hero Awards

1:20 PM - The State of the District: A Briefing on Montgomery County's Groundwater

1:45 PM - Navigating Rapid Growth: Perspectives from County Leaders: A Panel Discussion

Continuing Education Credits

Professional Geoscientists:
This event includes educational sessions that may qualify for up to 6 hours of P.G. CLE credit hours. Attendance documentation will be available upon request.

Texas Bar MCLE Credits:
Earn 5.75 hours of MCLE hours.
Course # 174336777
Name: LSGCD Symposium
Attendance documentation will be available upon request.

2:25 PM - Networking & Afternoon Coffee Break

2:40 PM - The Science and Technology that Supports Groundwater Management

3:30 PM - Well Informed - A Presentation by the Texas Well Owner Network & Water Screening Results

4:15 PM - Closing Remarks

4:30 PM - Adjourn

Thank You To Our Sponsors

AGS
Advanced Groundwater Solutions, LLC

Quiet Waters LLC
Bringing People Together in Water Solutions

STACEY REESE LAW PLLC
BUSINESS & WATER LITIGATION

KT GROUNDWATER

HARC

THIS IS TEXAS WATER.

25th Annual BELL COUNTY WATER SYMPOSIUM

Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District

Every drop counts!

Thursday, November 12, 2026

FEATURED TOPICS

2027 State Water Plan: Sounding the Alarm on State Funding
Ms. Sarah Kirkle, Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs, Texas Water Association
Mr. Tony Smith, Associate Vice President, Carollo Engineers
Ms. Heather Harward, Founder & Consultant, Heather Harward Consulting

Central Texas Water Alliance: Legislative Priorities for the 90th Session
Honorable Judge David Blackburn, Bell County
Recognition of CTWA Board and Leadership

Looking Ahead to Water in the 90th Session
Sen. Pete Flores, District 24
Rep. Brad Buckley, District 54
Rep. Hillary Hickland, District 55
Honorable Judge David Blackburn, Bell County

Lake Whitney Reallocation
Mr. Brad Burnett, Chief Operating Officer, Brazos River Authority

WCID 1 ASR Study in East Bell County
Dr. Neil Deeds, Vice President, INTERA
Mr. Allan Woelke, Vice President, CDM Smith

The District Groundwater Report
Ms. Whitney Ingram, General Manager, Clearwater UWCD
Mr. Mike Keester, Owner & Hydrogeologist, KT Groundwater

The Williamson County Resource Group
Honorable Judge Snell, Williamson County

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF ENGAGING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, REGIONAL STRATEGIES, & WATER POLICY IN BELL COUNTY

BOOTH EXHIBITS & NETWORKING

CATERED BBQ LUNCH PROVDIED BY SPONSORS

Keynote Address



Mr. Billy Howe
Associate Government Affairs Director
Texas Farm Bureau

25 Years of Groundwater Policy: Balancing Conservation & Private Property Rights

PCUD

GM Report # 44

254.933.0120

THIS EVENT IS FREE BUT REQUIRES RSVP BY NOVEMBER 5TH.

Doors Open: 8:00 AM
Program: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Huntington Bank Center
301 W Loop 121
Belton, TX 76513

Outlook

TWA 2026 Fall Conference Wrap Up – Thanks for joining us in San Antonio!

From Texas Water Association <comms@texaswaterassociation.org>
Date Fri 2026-10-16 11:48
To Office Manager <office@blancogroundwatertx.gov>

• Thanks for joining us for the TWA 2026 Fall Conference in San Antonio •



The TWA 2026 Fall Conference is a Wrap!

• RECAP • BOARD UPDATES • CLE & CERTIFICATES • SURVEY • SPONSORS

Thank you to our attendees, sponsors, speakers, and exhibitors for making the TWA 2026 Fall Conference another record-breaking success! More than 500 leaders and professionals from across the Texas water community and beyond joined us at the San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk to connect with colleagues and discuss the issues shaping Texas water.



We kicked things off on Wednesday with a tour of San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) H2Oaks Center and the 17th Annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament. Special thanks to our friends at SAWS for hosting us and to the TWA Membership & Services Committee for coordinating the tour.

Later, more than 80 attendees joined us for Signature Speed Networking, hosted by the TWA Membership & Services Committee, followed by our Welcome Reception, sponsored by Garney and Kimley-Horn.

Our conference program featured keynote addresses from Representative Armando Walle (Texas House District 140) and Director Brady Franks (Texas Water Development Board), along with presentations and discussions led by our Water Quality Committee and TWA Panels. This year's topics included groundwater data, Corpus Christi's water supply diversification, the BRA Lake Whitney reallocation project, state demographic patterns, industry perspectives on water, and data center water use.





The conversations and connections continued during our networking events, including the Ice Cream Treats Break, sponsored by GFT, Thursday's Networking Reception, sponsored by HDR and the TWA Risk Management Fund, and Friday's Networking Breakfast, sponsored by Freese and Nichols, Inc.

We thank our speakers for sharing their time and insights and bringing valuable expertise and perspectives from across the Texas water community. We also thank our sponsors for making these events possible.









UPDATES & RESOURCES

Welcome New Board Members! The TWA Board of Directors met on Thursday, October 8, during the Fall Conference and voted to fill three Board vacancies with terms to expire in 2027:

- General & Environmental Panel: **Glenn Clingenpeel,** Trinity River Authority (elected as the panel's Vice Chair)
- Municipal Panel: **Drew Molly,** City of Houston
- Utility Districts Panel: **Connie Curtis**, San Jacinto River Authority

Congratulations to Glenn, Drew, and Connie! We appreciate their leadership and commitment to the Association.

We also thanked Ed Shackelford, Bob Lux, and Ekaterina Fitos for their service on the Board. We wish Ed and Bob all the best in retirement, and congratulate Ekaterina on her new role as Director of Utilities for the City of San Marcos.

CLE & Certificates. The TWA 2026 Fall Conference has been approved for 5.0 hours of CLE credit for Texas-licensed attorneys, course number 174336371. A list of approved sessions is available on our Fall Conference page.

Engineers, geoscientists, and other professionals who wish to maintain a record of continuing education may download the certificate of attendance and a copy of the conference program from our Fall Conference page.

Find all available presentations on our Fall Conference page and view the full conference agenda to reference sessions and speakers.

Post-Conference Survey. Share your thoughts! Please take a few minutes to complete our brief post-conference survey by Friday, October 30. Your feedback helps inform future events.

Thank You! Special thanks to our 2026 Fall Conference Sponsors for their support, and to all our attendees, speakers, and exhibitors for joining us for

an incredible week in San Antonio.

Save the date for our next event, the **TWA 2027 Annual Convention, March 3–5, in Austin**. We hope to see you there!

Questions? Please email us at comms@texaswaterassociation.org

Thanks to Our 2026 Fall Conference Sponsors!

SIGNATURE SPONSORS

Friday Networking Breakfast

FREESE AND NICHOLS

Wednesday Welcome Reception

GARNEY

Kimley»Horn

Thursday Networking Reception

Docusign Envelope ID: 6E4A04B1-BDFD-86A1-818D-77B375EA3F16

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.texas.gov
Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

Erik Kubinski, GM
Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District
601 W. Main St.
Johnson City, TX 78636

RE: TWDB Contract 2700013239, Subcontract between Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District and Collier Consulting, Inc.

Dear Mr. Kubinski,

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has received the above-referenced Subcontract (styled Work Order No. B-10). The subcontract has been reviewed and found to be consistent with the scope of work and budget in TWDB Contract No. 2700013239. The said subcontract is therefore acceptable to TWDB.

Please feel free to contact Connie Beniquez of our WSC staff at 512-475-1712 or connie.beniquez@twdb.texas.gov if you have questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

John T. Dupnik, P.G.
Deputy Executive Administrator

10/22/2026
Date

Cc w/enc: Connie Beniquez, WSC

Docusign Envelope ID: 6E4A04B1-BDFD-86A1-818D-77B375EA3F16

SUBCONTRACT ROUTE FORM

Contract Amount $ 180,000.00	**CONTRACTOR:** Blanco-Pedernales GCD		
CONTRACT # 2700013239	**SUBCONTRACTOR AMT** $180,000.00	**SUBCONTRACTOR** Collier Consultin, Inc.	**DATE / INITIALS**
Procurement & Contract Services Daniel Cardin	☒ Assignment Date: 10/19/2026 ☒ Enter information into Worklog ☒ Prepare Draft documents for internal review. ☒ Adopts by Reference ☐ Use Checklist below		DC 10/19/2026
PCS Approval ☒ Daniel Cardin	Contract Admin Manager reviews and approves		DC 10/19/2026
Legal ☒ Annette Mass	**Contract Attorney reviews and approves**		10/20/2026 ALM
Contract Manager / SME ☒ Connie Beniquez **CC Copies to:**	☒ **CM / SME** reviews and approves Contractor Name: Erik Kubinski, GM Contractor Email: gm@blancogroundwatertx.gov Contractor Title: General Manager		CB 10/20/26
☐ N/A	**Team Lead Reviews and approves**		
☐ N/A	**Manager Reviews and approves**		
☒ Natalie Ballew	**Division Director reviews and approves**		RS 10/21/2026

▼ DOCUSIGN ONLY ▼

☐ Matt Nelson ☐ Edna Jackson ☒ John T. Dupnik	☐ Richard Wade ☐ Jessica Peña ☐ Georgia Sanchez	**Deputy Executive Administrator or CFO reviews, approves and signs transmittal letter *in DocuSign***	CTD 10/22/2026

▼ SUBCONTRACT APPROVAL CHECKLIST IF NEEDED ▼

	Location	Item
☐		Contract Dates
☐		Subcontract Amount
☐		Budget Tables (if necessary)
☐		Terms of Reimbursement
☐		Scope of Work
☐		Signed
☐		State Auditor Clause
☐		Financial Records
☐		Ownership – to include 3 parties if RWP/RFP
☐		No Debt Against the State
☐		Licenses/Permits/Insurance
☐		Compliance with State Law (RWP/RFP Only)

Quarterly Progress Report

Groundwater Science, Research, and Data Collection Grant

Blanco Pedernales GCD

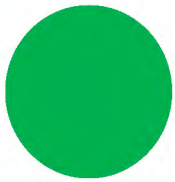
TWDB Contract # 2600013239

Progress Report # 1

REPORT DATE	PROJECT NAME	PREPARED BY
10/16/2026	Borehole Geophysical Log Interpretation and Cross Section Tool Database Application for Edwards-Trinity Aquifer Characterization	Erik Kubinski

PROJECT WORK STATUS

AT-A-GLANCE PROJECT STATUS



Change the shape fill color of the circle to reflect status.

Green = On schedule as planned, no issues
Yellow = Medium-level issue(s) that will delay or impede task completion
Red = Critical-level issue(s) that will significantly hinder the project timeline and impede project completion

Current Progress Summary

The project initiated on 10/5/26 and is in its initial phase. Log collection and upload to the subcontractor's file sharing system, Egnyte, was completed on 10/16/26, encompassing the following file formats: LAS, PDF, RD, TFD, some TIFF, and WCL. Conversion of file formats to TIFF is scheduled to commence on 10/19/26, contingent upon arrival of the shared logging trailer that houses the equipment needed to perform the file format conversions. As of today, the project remains fully on schedule with no delays encountered. Upcoming activities include finalization of TIFF conversion (10/30/26) and commencement of log interpretation (11/2/26).

The subcontract was submitted to TWDB today with this Progress Report. The project team is awaiting issuance of the acceptance letter from TWDB.

No significant issues, risks, or change requests have been identified to date. The project's initial risk factors, log delivery timeliness and format compatibility, continue to be monitored, with log receipt volumes tracking to date as planned.

% Scope Complete	Have subtasks been completed as planned? (Yes or No*) *if no, explain in detail in the Project Issues and Risk Monitoring section below.*
11%	**Yes**

Groundwater Science, Research, and Data Collection Grant Project - Gantt Chart

GCD Name: **Blanco Pedernales GCD**
TWDB Contract #: **2600012129**
Project Start Date: **5/14/2026**
Reporting Period: **2026Q3**

% Scope Complete 11%

Primary task weight check **Adjust primary task weights to total 100%**

Task	Status	Planned Start Date	Planned Finish Date	Actual Start Date	Actual Finish Date	% Complete	Weight %	Weighted Contribution
Task 1: Geophysical log collection, interpretation, and reporting						16%	20%	3.2%
Upload log files to Egnyte	Complete	10/1/26	10/16/26	10/6/26	10/14/26	100%	2%	2.0%
Convert all formats to TIFF	Not Started	10/19/26	10/30/26			0%	2%	0.0%
Interpret logs/Record picks	Not Started	11/2/26	1/15/27			0%	5%	0.0%
Document in report	Not Started	1/4/27	1/29/27			0%	4%	0.0%
Upload logs into DMS	Not Started	1/18/27	2/12/27			0%	2%	0.0%
Task 2: Raster surface generation						0%	15%	0.0%
Generate all layers	Not Started	3/1/27	4/16/27			0%	7%	0.0%
Upload to DB / Populate GeoDB	Not Started	4/19/27	5/14/27			0%	5%	0.0%
Setup shared folder with TWDB	Not Started	5/17/27	5/28/27			0%	3%	0.0%
Task 3a: Requirements Gathering						0%	7%	0.0%
Requirements Elicitation &	Not Started	3/1/27	4/2/27			0%	4%	0.0%
Requirements Spec & Validation	Not Started	4/5/27	4/30/27			0%	3%	0.0%
Task 3b: Dev. Interactive Cross Section Tool						0%	30%	0.0%
Core Data Engine & API Layer	Not Started	5/3/27	6/18/27			0%	15%	0.0%
Visualization & System Integration	Not Started	6/21/27	8/13/27			0%	14%	0.0%
Task 3c: Testing and Bug Fixing						0%	20%	0.0%
Low hanging fruit issues	Not Started	8/16/27	9/10/27			0%	8%	0.0%
Deep-dive issues	Not Started	9/13/27	10/15/27			0%	12%	0.0%
Task 3d: Go-live						0%	8%	0.0%
Prod Deploy & Tech Verification	Not Started	11/1/27	11/12/27			0%	3%	0.0%
Review, Acceptance, Training	Not Started	11/8/27	11/19/27			0%	3%	0.0%
District Go-Live:	Not Started	1/19/27				0%	2%	0.0%



PROJECT ISSUES AND RISK MONITORING

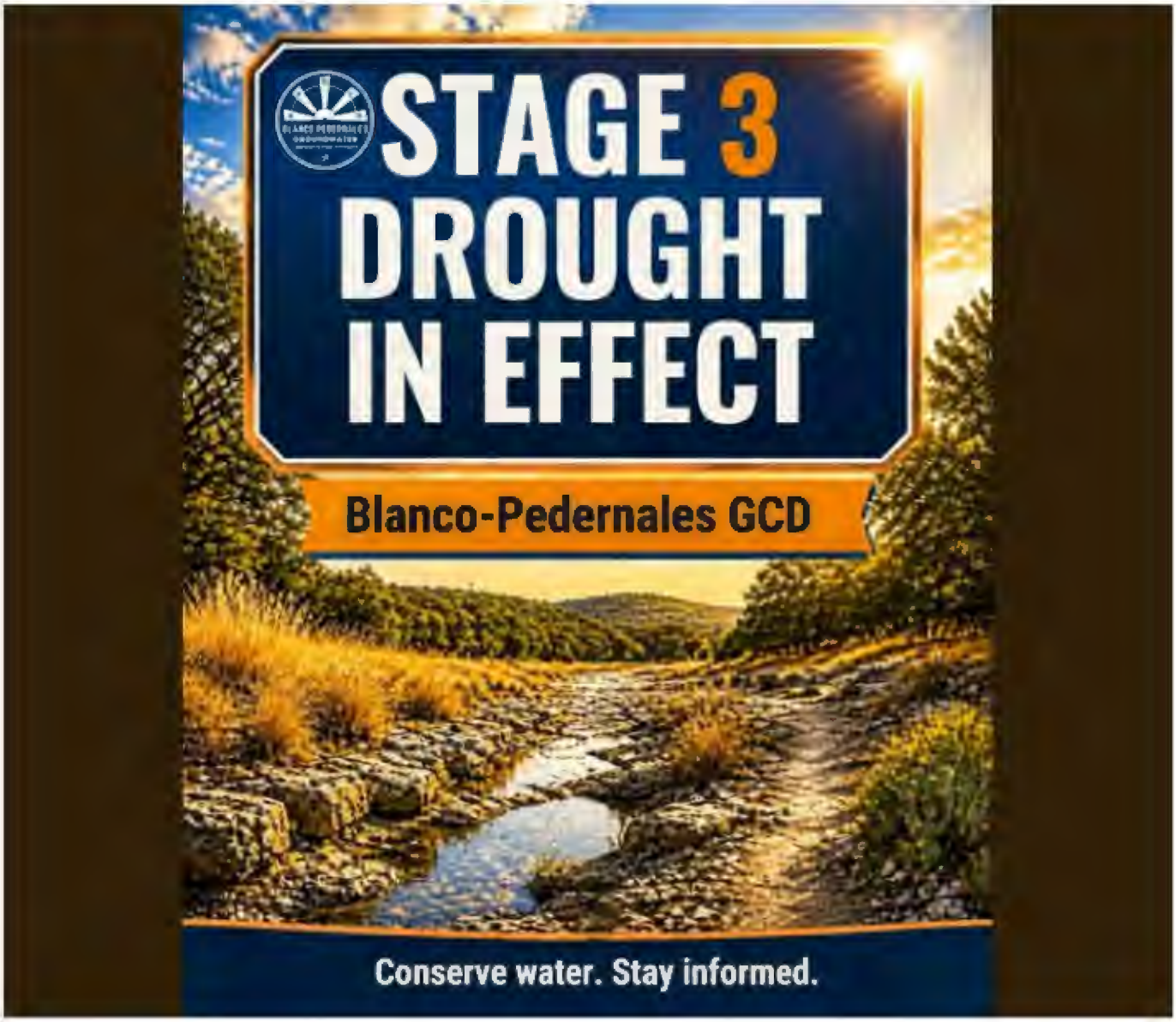
Explanation of Changes or Issues

No changes or issues.

Risk Monitoring

Risk Description	Initial Risk Level (High, Medium, or Low)	Current Risk Level (High, Medium, or Low)
1. Deep-dive defects exceed estimate	High	High
2. Ambiguous / conflicting picks, interpretation rework	High	High
3. Limited access/docs for existing DMS	High	High
4. Not enough log files	Medium	Medium
5. Poor log quality / legibility of the log files	Medium	Medium
6. Cannot convert all files to TIFF	Medium	Medium
7. Requirements churn post-sign-off	Medium	Medium
8. Raster surface artifacts requiring regeneration	Medium	Medium
9. Production environment surprises	Low	Low
10. Funding/contract modification	Low	Low
11. TWDB dependency / external responsiveness	Low	Low
12. Key personnel loss	Low	Low

Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District
5 days ago ·



See insights and ads

Boost post

5 1 10

Kyle Lee Moreland · 5d
Well let's keep approving water permits! lol

Reply Send message Hide 1

Comment as Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation Distr...

Outlook

Urgent State Enforcement Request: Illegal OSSF Installation, Setback Violations, and Environmental Contamination in Blanco County

---

From Amber Theis <missambertheis@yahoo.com>
Date Wed 10/21/2026 11:30 AM
To complaint@tceq.texas.gov <complaint@tceq.texas.gov>; ossf@tceq.texas.gov <ossf@tceq.texas.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this as a long-term property owner in Blanco County to formally request an immediate state-level investigation and enforcement action regarding a critical On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) violation and systemic regulatory failure that is actively threatening our local water table, environment, and property rights.

Local county inspectors (Blanco County OSSF) have acknowledged that an installation currently underway near my property is in clear violation of state and local rules—specifically sitting within a **3-foot setback violation** of my property line, dropped directly into solid limestone rock without proper bedding, and creating an immediate vector/mosquito hazard.

Despite confirming these violations, the local office has refused to take enforcement action, claiming their hands are tied by an outdated rule and stating they "cannot stop them until it is hooked up." Waiting until a defective, non-compliant septic system is fully operational and leaking waste into shallow soils and fractured limestone is completely unacceptable and defeats the entire purpose of environmental oversight. There are also numerous systems like this that have slipped through the cracks and are being used.

Core Violations & Environmental Hazards:

1. **Setback & Placement Violations:** The tank and system components are positioned just feet from my property line (violating mandatory buffer requirements), directly infringing upon my property. It has been left open for over a year now. Being so close to the property line, ive had several, expensive livestock fall in and drowned, as it fills with water every time it rains. The concrete tank itself has remained full of water and is a mosquito breeding ground.
2. **Solid Rock / Improper Installation:** The tank has been dropped directly into unblasted, solid limestone shelving without the required protective sand/soil bedding, creating a massive structural and leakage risk.
3. **Neighborhood-Wide System Runoff & Failure:** Across our neighborhood, existing aerobic septic systems regularly spray and drip onto the surface. Because the terrain consists of solid rock, this effluent cannot absorb; it simply pools on the surface. When heavy rains hit, this untreated and partially treated wastewater sheet-flows off properties, running straight down topography into **Rebecca Creek and eventually into Canyon Lake**.
4. **Algae Outbreaks & Chemical Pollution:** The soaps, detergents, and nutrient loading from these failing, surface-pooling systems are directly fueling a major environmental crisis, including severe **blue-green algae overgrowth** in our local waterways.

5. **Private Well Compromise:** My private water well—which has served my home reliably since the 1980s—has recently started developing a sulfur smell, signaling that surface contamination is already breaching the water table.
6. **Local Regulatory Loophole:** The county is hiding behind an outdated 1988 density/septic clause, allowing high-density, cookie-cutter development on tiny 0.21-acre lots that have zero wastewater absorption capacity.

Since the local Blanco County inspector's office has stated they will not intervene prior to hookup, I am calling on TCEQ to step in with an **immediate state-level field investigation and enforcement action** on this property—and an evaluation of the broader surface-spraying runoff failures—before these illegal systems destroy our aquatic ecosystem and drinking water.

Please provide a prompt response detailing how TCEQ plans to investigate these violations and correct local oversight failures.

Sincerely,

Amber Theis
1541 cliff drive
Spring Branch TX 78070
832-904-5119

Blanco County, TX

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BPGCD BOARD ADOPTS TWO RULE AMENDMENTS ON WELL REPORTING AND AQUIFER PROTECTION

District revises agricultural reporting requirements and strengthens aquifer isolation standards for new wells; new rules effective November 1, 2026

JOHNSON CITY, TX. On October 16, 2026, the Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District (BPGCD) Board of Directors voted to adopt two rule amendments: one revising production reporting requirements for agricultural wells and one strengthening aquifer isolation standards for new wells. Both amendments take effect November 1, 2026.

These are the District's first rule amendments since the Board approved a comprehensive set of rule amendments on April 16, 2026, continuing the Board's ongoing review and revision of District rules.

Rule 4.1.D: Agricultural Production Reporting Exemption

Under the amended Rule 4.1.D, wells used solely for agricultural use are exempt from the annual production reporting requirement, provided well owners submit a written certification declaring agricultural use and describing their operation (acreage, crops, or livestock). This change reduces administrative burden on farmers and ranchers while maintaining oversight.

"The District recognizes that agricultural operators represent a significant portion of our permittees," said General Manager Erik Kubinski. "This amendment streamlines compliance without compromising our ability to track regional groundwater use."

Well owners must notify the District within 90 days if use changes from agricultural to other purposes, at which point full reporting resumes. The District reserves the right to periodically review certifications and conduct inspections to verify eligibility. Misrepresentation may result in revocation of the exemption and enforcement action under Rule 9.

Rule 4.3.B: Enhanced Grouting and Aquifer Isolation Standards

Rule 4.3.B, developed in consultation with the District's consulting hydrogeologist, establishes stricter grouting and isolation requirements for new wells:

- Minimum grouting depth increased from 10 to 50 feet, with field approvals available when the first potable water-bearing strata lies at shallower depths (minimum 10-foot floor)
- Prohibition on commingling groundwater from different aquifers or chemically distinct water-bearing zones
- Wells penetrating the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau), Upper Glen Rose, or Marble Falls aquifers must isolate overlying zones from the intended production interval using approved mechanical isolation devices
- Required documentation includes borehole and casing specifications, aquifer encounter logs, isolation device details, and annular seal measurements

"These standards protect groundwater quality by preventing cross-aquifer contamination," said the District's Consulting Hydrogeologist, Neil Deeds. "The enhanced grouting requirements reflect best practices in modern well construction."

Implementation

The General Manager is authorized to notify the public through outreach, social media, and press releases. Licensed water well drillers will receive copies of the rule changes during well registration. Alternative aquifer-isolation methods may be approved upon written determination that they provide equivalent or greater protection.

About BPGCD

The Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District manages groundwater resources in Blanco County, Texas, balancing conservation with responsible property use. The District regulates well permits, enforces production reporting, and develops drought contingency plans.

Outlook

Documents for Your Review and Consideration

From Erik Kubinski <gm@blancogroundwatertx.gov>

Date Mon 2026-10-19 13:46

To donna.campbell@senate.texas.gov <donna.campbell@senate.texas.gov>; ellen.troxclair@house.texas.gov <ellen.troxclair@house.texas.gov>

Cc charles.perry@senate.texas.gov <charles.perry@senate.texas.gov>; cody.harris@house.texas.gov <cody.harris@house.texas.gov>; charles.schwertner@senate.texas.gov <charles.schwertner@senate.texas.gov>; daniel.alders@house.texas.gov <daniel.alders@house.texas.gov>; denise.villalobos@house.texas.gov <denise.villalobos@house.texas.gov>; Adam Foster <adam@texasgroundwater.org>; Greg Ellis <greg@gmellis.law>

Bcc James Sultemeier <rranch80@yahoo.com>; Tom Murrah <tomemurrah@gmail.com>; Greg Stevens <greg.stevens@blancogroundwatertx.gov>; James Sultemeier <james.sultemeier@blancogroundwatertx.gov>; Jimmy Klepac <jimmy.klepac@blancogroundwatertx.gov>; Rob Reynolds <rob.reynolds@blancogroundwatertx.gov>; Tom Murrah <tom.murrah@blancogroundwatertx.gov>; Greg Stevens <greg.stevens@blancogroundwatertx.gov>; Rob Reynolds <rgreynolds2@gmail.com>; Jimmy Klepac <jimmy@klepac.com>

3 attachments (613 KB)

20261015_BPGCD_Letter_Groundwater_District_Protection.pdf; SIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 20261015-1 FOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES.pdf; SIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 20260416-1.pdf;

Dear Senator Campbell and Representative Troxclair,

I am Erik Kubinski, General Manager of the Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District. I am writing on behalf of our Board to share documentation regarding the preservation of local Groundwater Conservation Districts for your review and consideration.

Attached please find our October 15, 2026 letter, along with Resolutions 20260416-1 and 20261015-1 referenced therein.

Thank you for your time and service.

Respectfully,

Erik Kubinski
General Manager
Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District
601 West Main Street
Johnson City, Texas 78636
830-868-9196

Donna Campbell, M.D.
Texas State Senator
District 25

October 21, 2026

Laura Gharis, Chief Clerk
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087
Via email: chiefclk@tceq.texas.gov

RE: Affected Parties; Permit WQ0015866001 COMAL; UTILITIES INC OF TEXAS (AKA Canyon Ranch / Juniper Ranch)

Dear Ms. Gharis,

Thank you for serving the citizens of Texas as the protector of our air, land, and water. I am also grateful for TCEQ staff's consistent and timely responsiveness to my staff's inquiries on behalf of my constituents. As you know, our environmentally sensitive Texas Hill Country is beloved by all Texans and growing at a rapid pace. Property owners here are anxious to engage in any effort they believe will protect our area.

Based on the fact that the treated effluent from the proposed water treatment plant to be authorized by WQ0015866001 will flow through several private properties in the Mystic Shores subdivision, as well as the neighborhood's nature preserve park, I respectfully request that the Mystic Shores Property Owners Association be included as an "affected party" which would be directly impacted by the permit's approval.

Therefore, I hereby submit this request that the Mystic Shores Property Owners Association be granted affected party status regarding the Water Quality Permit #Permit WQ0015866001 COMAL; UTILITIES INC OF TEXAS. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donna Campbell

Senator Donna Campbell, M.D.
Chair, Senate Committee on Education

Cc: Clay Kelley, Legislative Liaison, Intergovernmental Relations Division

Don Huffines
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

REPORT FRAUD CORRUPTION AND ABUSE [comptroller.texas.gov/web-forms/tax-fraud/]

TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2026

Comptroller Huffines Calls on Texans to Report Government Fraud and Tax Evasion Through New Whistleblower Portal

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Don Huffines today launched a whistleblower portal that gives every Texan a direct line to report fraud, corruption, tax evasion, waste, and abuse involving state tax dollars, whether committed by those who cheat on the taxes they owe, government officials who misuse taxpayer money, or businesses and nonprofits that break state tax law.

The Comptroller's Law Enforcement Operations (LEO) whistleblower portal sends tips securely and directly to the agency's investigators. Texans can submit detailed reports, upload supporting documentation, and remain anonymous if they choose.

"The Comptroller's Law Enforcement Operations Division finds those who lie and cheat to steal taxpayer money, recovers what they took, and builds the cases that send the crooks to prison," Huffines said. "Texans see things we cannot. If you witness or suspect fraud, tax evasion, waste, or abuse, report it. Together we strive to protect all taxpayer money and hold accountable those who steal it or refuse to pay their share.

"Fraudsters, tax cheats, and anyone misusing taxpayer money should take notice. We will aggressively pursue anyone who defrauds the state of Texas, and now every Texan can help us find them."

The LEO division, reorganized when Huffines took office Aug. 1, is a statewide police organization commissioned by the Comptroller's office under authority granted by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and Tax Code to protect the fiscal integrity of the state.

Its investigators pursue fraud and corruption across Texas, including government officials who misuse taxpayer money, businesses and nonprofits that break state tax law, and anyone who commits perjury on government forms or tampers with government records, as well as tax fraud and evasion of every kind, from sales tax collected and never remitted, to motor fuel, tobacco, and motor vehicle tax crimes.

The division brings money laundering and organized crime charges where warranted, partners with local, state, and federal law enforcement, and in every case works to recover what was taken.

For more information, go to the Comptroller's website.

CERTIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL USE EXEMPTION FROM PRODUCTION REPORTING

Pursuant to Amended Rule 2 (Definitions) and Rule 4.1.D (requirements)
Effective Date: November 1, 2026
Form Last Revised: 2026-10-21

Owner Information		Well Information	
Name (Legal or DBA)		Permit Number	
Mailing Address		Legal Property Description	
City, State, Zip		Address or Location	
Primary Phone #		Latitude	
Email Address		Longitude	

SECTION 3: AGRICULTURAL OPERATION DESCRIPTION

Check all categories that apply to your well use:

☐ Crop Cultivation
☐ Floriculture, Viticulture, Silviculture, or Horticulture
☐ Livestock Raising
☐ Cover Crops or Program-Related Idling
☐ Wildlife Management
☐ Equine Animals
☐ Related Domestic Use on Same Property

Total Acreage Under Management: _____. Years Operating as Agricultural Use:_____

Primary Crops or Animal Types: _____

Additional Comments (optional): _____

SECTION 4: CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

1. **Exemption Scope** — This exemption applies only to wells used solely for agricultural purposes. Any use outside the defined categories requires resumption of full annual production reporting.
2. **Change of Use Notification** — I will notify the District in writing within 90 days if the well use changes from agricultural to any other purpose (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial). Upon such notification, I will resume compliance with all annual production reporting requirements under Rule 4.1.D.
3. **Verification and Inspection** — I agree to permit the District to periodically review this certification and conduct reasonable inspections to verify continued eligibility for the exemption.
4. **Consequences of Misrepresentation** — I understand that a misrepresented certification may be revoked after notice and hearing. Enforcement action may be taken under District Rule 9, including restoration of reporting obligations and applicable penalties.
5. **Accuracy of Information** — All information provided in this certification is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I, the undersigned property owner or authorized operator, hereby certify that the well described above is used **solely for agricultural use** as defined in District Rule 2, and I understand and agree to the following conditions:

SECTION 5: SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge receipt of the current version of District Rules 2 (definitions) and Rule 4.1.D (requirement), and I accept the responsibilities outlined in this certification.

Printed Name: _____

Title / Authority: _____

Signature: _____ (To be signed in front of Notary)

Date Signed: _____

SECTION 6: NOTARY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

On this ____ day of _____, 20___, before me, the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared _____, known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name is subscribed to this instrument, and acknowledged that they executed it for the purposes stated therein.

Notary Public, State of Texas
My Commission Expires: _____

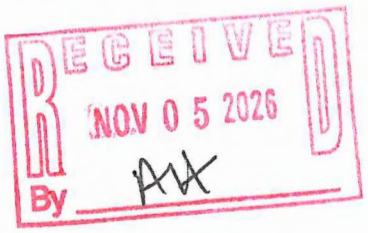
State of Texas
County of Blanco

Keep a copy of this certification for your records.

Questions? Contact the District office at 830-896-9196 or visit www.blancogroundwatertx.gov

Transparency Counsel, PLLC
8708 S. Congress Ave., Suite 500, #196
Austin, TX 78745

Transparency Counsel
PLLC · PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT



General Manager
BLANCO-PEDERNALES GCD
601 WEST MAIN STREET
JOHNSON CITY, TX 78636-1516

October 31, 2026

Re: Open records help for BLANCO-PEDERNALES GCD

Dear General Manager,

Records requests are climbing all over Texas, and AI is a big part of why. People take all sorts of things to a chatbot now, which tells them to file a public information request at the drop of a hat. Folks who never knew the Act existed are being handed the playbook. The pool of requesters keeps widening. Small districts feel it most, since answering these requests usually isn't anyone's real job. Every request still starts a ten business day clock to bring in the Attorney General if you want to hold something back. Anything that goes out by mistake doesn't come back.

I can help, and I know how these questions get answered because answering them used to be my job. I spent four years in the Attorney General's Open Records Division writing the rulings that decide them. The Public Information Act is the focus of my practice now, and I only represent governmental bodies, never the people requesting records, so I'm only ever on your side of it.

I'd like to find an arrangement that fits how BLANCO-PEDERNALES GCD actually runs. For some offices that's handling every request start to finish. For others it's just being on call when something tricky lands on the desk. We can build it around your volume and your budget instead of forcing you into one model, with no retainer and no minimum, so a quiet month costs you nothing.

Whether or not we ever work together, I'd be glad to send you something my clients find handy. One is a Public Information Act deadline calendar that keeps the ten day clock and the other key dates in front of your staff. The other is a coloring book that walks them through the redactions anyone can make without a lawyer, which saves real money on the routine requests. Tell me which one you'd like and where to send it.

If any of this is on your plate, I'm happy to talk. There's no charge for the conversation and no pressure after it. You can reach me at (512) 850-6158 or Justin.Miller@TransparencyCounsel.com.

Looking forward to it,

Justin Miller
PIA Special Counsel
Transparency Counsel, PLLC



Filing Receipt

Filed Date - 2026-10-09 12:25:08 PM

Control Number - 59336

Item Number - 2754

Uvalde County
nderground Water Conservation District
200 East Nopal, Suite 203
Phone: 830-278-8242 Uvalde, Texas 78801 e-mail: ucuwcd@sbcglobal.net

To: Public Utility Commission of Texas and State Representative Donald McLaughlin District 80

Utility line 81B crossing Uvalde County is a very bad idea in that the area it is crossing is a high recharge zone for the Edwards Aquifer, the Buda Aquifer, the Austin Chalk Aquifer and the alluvial Leona Aquifer. Ill-advised construction over this area could result in reduced recharge to the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer in Uvalde County and the counties south as the above-mentioned aquifers in Uvalde County recharge the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifers.

West of Uvalde, where the Nueces River crosses Highway 90, there are several major fault lines that impact the above-mentioned aquifers. As an example, before the recent heavy rains, the Nueces River and the West Prong of the Nueces River were completely dry below the convergence of the two rivers. According to the Edwards Aquifer Authority website, Uvalde County was in Drought Stage 5 which has a restriction of 45% of permitted pumping. The pumping restrictions are intended to protect groundwater flow from Uvalde County to the east to protect the endangered species at Comal and San Marcos springs. For example, this illustrates that when it rains within two weeks or less Uvalde went from Drought Stage 5 to no restrictions due to the immense recharge from the Nueces River. The Nueces River recharges from Edwards County all the way to where the river discharges to the Gulf. The Frio River and Sabinal River, which are east of the Knippa Gap, contribute to the Edwards Aquifer which impacts the area south and east of Uvalde County. This includes the city of San Antonio.

The construction of Utility line 81 B could have a catastrophic effect on the above-mentioned aquifers due to the karstic nature of the terrain. Conduits and caves contribute to the recharge of the above-mentioned. This recharge occurs anywhere from ground level and below and can affect the vegetation

under the power line and the 200-foot easement.

Construction of utility line 81 B would have a far-reaching effect on the environment and the local economy.

Vic Hilderbran, General Manager and Board member of Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District.

Vic Hilderbran

10/2/2026
Date

Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District
601 West Main Street, Johnson City, TX 78636 | (830) 868-9196
office@blancogroundwatertx.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Private Well Owners Invited to Water Screening Event in Blanco County

JOHNSON CITY, Texas — Private well owners in Blanco County and surrounding areas are invited to participate in the Texas Well Owner Network's "Well Informed" water screening program November 18–19. The educational program provides an opportunity to have household well water screened for common contaminants and to learn how to protect private drinking-water wells.

Water samples will be screened for fecal coliform, *E. coli* bacteria, nitrates and high salinity. Following the screening, participants are encouraged to attend a one-hour results and interpretation meeting covering water-quality results, wellhead protection practices and options for addressing well contamination.

Samples may be dropped off from **8:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, November 18**, at either of these locations:

- Blanco County AgriLife Extension Office, 200 N. Ave. G, Suite 7, Johnson City
- Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District Office, 601 W. Main St., Johnson City

Participants should collect their water in a new, unused 12- to 20-ounce water bottle. Printable collection instructions and a sample information sheet are available at **twon.tamu.edu**.

The results and interpretation meeting will be held at **9 a.m. Thursday, November 19**, at the Blanco County Community Resource Center, 206 Highway 281 South in Johnson City.

The cost is **$15 per sample**. Participants may submit as many samples as they wish. Exact change, or checks made to the order of **RANGELAND EXTENSION**. No credit cards accepted.

The **first 10 people** submitting samples at either location will receive the gift of the cost of **ONE sample** paid for by the Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District.

For more information, contact Joel Pigg at **830-275-3866** or **j-pigg@tamu.edu**.

The Texas Well Owner Network is funded through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint-source grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project is managed by the Texas Water Resources Institute, part of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University.

-30-

PRIVATE WELL OWNERS

WHAT'S IN YOUR WELL WATER?



WATER QUALITY SCREENING EVENT

BLANCO COUNTY | NOV. 18-19

$15 **PER SAMPLE**

You may bring as many samples as you wish; from well, interior faucet, outside hose bib, etc.

FREE FIRST SAMPLE!

For the first 10 people at each drop-off location, courtesy of Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District.

DROP OFF YOUR WATER SAMPLE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 | 8:30-11 A.M.

CHOOSE EITHER JOHNSON CITY LOCATION:

Blanco County AgriLife Extension Office
200 N. Ave. G, Suite 7

Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District
601 W. Main St.

HOW TO PREPARE

Collect water in a new, unused 12-20 oz. water bottle. Find printable collection instructions and the sample information sheet at twon.tamu.edu.

QUESTIONS? Joel Pigg • 830-275-3866 • j-pigg@tamu.edu

UNDERSTAND YOUR RESULTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 • 9 A.M.
Blanco County Community Resource Center
206 Highway 281 South, Johnson City

Tests screen for: fecal coliform, E. coli, nitrates and high salinity. Learn about well protection and contamination options.

Payment: Exact change or checks payable to RANGELAND EXTENSION. No credit cards.

Outlook

TAGD Weekly Updates for November 9, 2026

From Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts <stephanie@texasgroundwater.org>
Date Mon 2026-11-09 22:15
To Erik Kubinski <gm@blancogroundwatertx.gov>

Weekly Updates

How TAGD keeps its members informed!

This Week in Groundwater
November 9, 2026

Important Dates

- **Mid-Term Committee Sign-Up Deadline:** November 13, 2026
- **Winter Business Meeting:** January 6-7, 2027
- **Spring Business Meeting:** June 3-4, 2027
- **Texas Groundwater Summit | Annual Business Meeting:** August 31 - September 2, 2027

TAGD News

Mid-Term Committee Sign-Ups Close This Friday
Want to help shape TAGD's legislative work next session or help plan the Texas Groundwater Summit? If you missed the October 2025 sign-up period, you have through this **Friday, November 13,** to join a committee. Explore TAGD's committees. Sign up by Friday.

Membership Renewals Past Due
TAGD membership renewal forms and payment were due **November 1**. If your renewal is still outstanding, please follow the payment instructions in your renewal email and complete the renewal form. Please submit the renewal form even if your membership level and contact information are the same. Thank

you to those who have already renewed! Please email Annick with any questions.

Legislative Updates

Bill Filing Begins for the 90th Texas Legislature
Bill prefiling is underway for the 90th Texas Legislature. As the session approaches, TAGD will monitor bills as they are filed and keep members informed about proposals that could affect groundwater conservation districts. During the session, the TAGD Legislative Committee will review relevant legislation and take positions on bills it deems actionable. TAGD members who are not currently on the committee but would like to participate can sign up here.

90th Legislative Session | Key Dates
Bill Prefiling Begins | November 9, 2026
90th Regular Session Convenes | January 12, 2027, 12:00pm
Local Bill Notice Planning Date | February 10, 2027

Agency Updates

TCEQ Certifies Houston County GCD Petition
At its November 4 meeting, the TCEQ voted 3-0 to certify the petition to create the Houston County GCD. The next step is a local election. Houston County voters will decide whether to confirm the district's creation and, in a separate proposition, whether to approve a property tax to fund district operations. All five permanent board seats will also be on the ballot.

TCEQ Adopts Produced Water Land Application Rules
TCEQ adopted final rules governing the land application of treated produced water at its November 4 meeting. The rules implement SB 1145 by establishing a TCEQ permitting process for land application, including a minimum 100-foot setback from surface water and authority for the agency to impose additional site-specific treatment, monitoring, and disposal requirements. The rules take effect November 26. More info can be found here.

TWDB Board Meeting November 12
The TWDB will meet on **Thursday, November 12, at 9:30am.** Agenda items include consideration of a contract of up to **$310,000** to analyze portions of the Carrizo-Wilcox, Queen City, Sparta, and Yegua aquifers in Central Texas for potential brackish groundwater production zones. View the agenda and meeting access information.

Resources & Happenings

New Land Cover Data for 20 Texas Coastal Counties
The Texas Geographic Information Office (TxGIO) has released a coastal land cover dataset based on 2024 aerial imagery. Available through the TxGIO DataHub, the dataset maps 20 land cover classes at 60-centimeter resolution, including wetlands, agricultural land, developed areas, and impervious surfaces such as roads and buildings. Download the dataset.

Texas Recycles Day | Outreach Resources for Districts
Texas Recycles Day is **Sunday, November 15**. TCEQ's Take Care of Texas program offers an *Inside Look at a Landfill* poster and handout that show how landfill liners and groundwater monitoring systems work. Other resources include an electronics recycling guide, school recycling, and much more. Download the poster and handout. Explore Texas Recycles Day outreach materials.

Could a District Project Qualify for TCEQ's SEP Program?
If your district has a project with direct, measurable environmental benefits, TCEQ's Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) program may be worth exploring. Through the program, entities settling enforcement actions can direct a portion of their penalties toward approved projects. Governmental and nonprofit organizations can apply to administer those projects. Review the program and application process.

What Would You Ask NASA's Water Data?
What could satellite observations tell you about drought conditions, soil moisture, or groundwater? In this podcast episode, NASA Earth Action Lead Rebecca Peters discusses how NASA is making its data easier to use for water management. She highlights Hydrology Copilot, a NASA-Microsoft project designed to let users explore water data by asking questions in plain language. Listen to the episode.

Resource: Texas Elected Officials Directory
Use the Texas Tribune's Elected Officials Directory to find your Texas House and Senate members. The directory also includes statewide elected officials and Texans serving in Congress. Explore the directory.

News

NATIONAL/STATE/LOCAL

- Regents expand water infrastructure at RELLIS Semiconductor Institute

- AI's Biggest Water Problem Isn't the Data Center. It's the Power Plant
- Beacon Answers Darby's Questions on Dove Creek Data Center
- Texas city weighs $1 million lease for groundwater that would have to stay in another county
- 2026 midterm elections: Data centers dominate conversation, what about the Ogallala?
- 3M agrees to pay more than $7 billion to settle 'forever chemical' groundwater contamination claims
- Can data centers produce water instead of consuming it? UT researchers think so
- North Texas is Looking to Arkansas for its Next Water Source

Do you have news you'd like us to consider sharing?
Please submit articles to TAGD via email. Many local papers have paywalls and/or may not appear on our searches!

View Jobs & RFPs Here

Events

District Hosted Events

- **Bell County Water Symposium.** November 12, Belton. More info.

Other Events

- **TAGD Winter Business Meeting.** January 6-7. San Marcos. More info TBA.
- **Water for Texas 2027 Conference.** January 25-27, 2027, Austin. More info.
- **TGWA Annual Convention.** January 27-28. San Marcos.
- **TWF Texas Water Day at the Capitol.** February 16, Austin. More info.
- **TCEQ Environmental Resource Fair & Conference**. May 11-12, 2027. More info.

Visit Our Site!

Share This Email

DON HUFFINES
TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

November 16, 2026

Senator Sarah Eckhardt
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Senator Eckhardt,

Having received your Nov. 9 letter requesting control of this agency, I must remind you that the Texas Constitution provides for one Comptroller of Public Accounts to be in office at a time, and until Jan. 1, 2027, I hold that office, with sole authority over this agency and full responsibility for it. Your demand to wield its authority came before the election's certification, and long before the Constitution gives you any role. I will fulfill my constitutional obligations to Texans until my last day and put all Texans first: to audit government at every level, to end unlawful taxes, and to expose corruption. This is the most important and most complex constitutional agency in Texas, and it is vital that it runs smoothly. Any disruption to my team members or agency operations will be treated with the seriousness it deserves.

Your demand that I "cease pursuit of rule changes initiated since Aug. 1, 2026" is a demand to kill the Taxpayer First Project and every reform in it. I will not suspend rulemaking. Why do you want me to pull back rules that give Texans back more of their own money and repeal the illegitimate and unlawful interpretations of the Tax Code that the Legislature never voted on? These reforms repeal the tax on Texans' medical records, which lowers the cost of healthcare. They end the double tax that hits small businesses and gig workers twice on the same marketplace transaction. They ban spy cameras from our grants and contracts, so taxpayer dollars never fund the surveillance of law-abiding Texans. And the Texas FIRST (Fraud Investigation and Recovery Strike Team) is investigating fraud and corruption and recovering stolen tax dollars, regardless of party.

Since I was willing to work with you to achieve a constructive transition, I was very disappointed to read a letter showing such emotional contempt for the Texas Constitution and Texas taxpayers. You insisted that the only time you could meet in the coming weeks is a single two-hour window, Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to noon, despite the other dates I offered when I could be present. As I made clear, I and much of my executive team are unavailable at that time due to scheduling conflicts. I have therefore arranged for members of our government relations team to meet with you at that time and provide a guided tour of the facilities. While I had hoped to welcome you to the agency personally, I am confident the Nov. 18 meeting will be informative and productive.

Until my final day as Comptroller, the agenda will not change: Texans first, taxpayers first. I take no state salary, pension, or perks, because the money belongs to the people, not the government.

Sincerely,

Don Huffines
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

PROJECT STAR

Oil & gas firms partner on data center, power campus

BY SHAY KHAN
skhan@bizjournals.com

A local oil and gas company is partnering to develop a $22.3 billion data center and power campus in South Texas.

San Antonio-based Lewis Energy Group, Related Digital, an affiliate of New York-based Related Companies and Florida-based NextEra Energy Resources are partners on the project. The companies announced plans on Oct. 2 alongside the U.S. Department of Commerce and the South Korean government.

Known as Project Star, the development in Encinal, Texas, would combine a 5-gigawatt data center campus with 6.47 gigawatts of natural gas-fired power generation.

Lewis Energy, founded by billionaire Rod Lewis in 1983, is expected to provide the project with land, natural gas, water and related infrastructure.

Project Star is expected to be built in phases, with initial power generation potentially coming online as early as 2029.

"This project will bring much-needed jobs to South Texas, add new power generation to be available to the state of Texas, and ensure the natural gas produced in the South Texas region provides direct economic benefits to our local communities," Lewis said in a statement.

Project Star pairs a large-scale power generation campus directly with the adjacent data center. NextEra Energy Resources would develop, build and operate the natural gas generation facility, with excess power returned to the ERCOT grid.

Related Digital has roughly $55 billion in active data center development and construction across multiple states, representing approximately 6 gigawatts of capacity. The company did not identify a tenant for the Encinal campus.

"Together with our partners, we're building something that will clearly advance our nation's energy independence, power American innovation, create thousands of good-paying jobs, and drive economic growth in South Texas," said CEO of Related Companies Jeff Blau in a LinkedIn post.

The announcement was made as part of a strategic investment initiative between the United States and South Korea focused on energy, artificial intelligence and other critical industrial sectors. The energy campus will be jointly owned through a U.S.-Korea investment structure established under the countries' trade agreement, the news release said.

The companies estimate the project will support approximately 8,400 jobs during peak construction, according to the news release. Once operational, the power campus is expected to support about 170 permanent jobs, while the data center campus is projected to create hundreds of additional permanent positions.

NextEra said it has invested more than $20 billion in Texas and operates more than 9 gigawatts of generation capacity statewide.



San Antonio-based Lewis Energy Group joins Related Digital and NextEra Energy on Project Star in Encinal, Texas.

As Texas grows, so do we.
American Bank is now Prosperity.



Top Row L to R: Jerry Daniel, Jeff Hawthorn, Stephen Raffaele, Marc Checchin, Anthony Perez, Michelle Manzo. Bottom Row L to R: Susan Wiesner, Manny Ruiz, Byron Bexley, Candace Tottenham.

New name. Same great team.

A new day is dawning in Central Texas – we are investing in new locations, stronger technology and deeper community partnerships. Merging with our colleagues at American Bank shows our commitment to the state and especially Central Texas.

Your San Antonio team will be here when you need them, now with more ways to better serve you.
www.ProsperityUSA.com

PROSPERITY BANK®

WELCOMING AMERICAN BANK TO PROSPERITY

BEYOND THE SERVER HALLS

Data center growth fuels jobs from construction sites to control rooms.

BY SHAY KHAN | skhan@bizjournals.com



CyrusOne has been building data centers in the San Antonio area for more than two decades.

The data center boom is creating specialized jobs, but the workforce impact goes beyond server halls. ¶ Unlike a factory or large corporate campus, a data center may require only a few dozen workers once operational. Much of the industry's employment impact occurs during construction and among contractors, suppliers and businesses that support the facilities. ¶ Dallas-based data center developer CyrusOne estimates that a data center requires about 30 to 40 full-time employees once it is operational. ¶ CyrusOne has been building data centers in the San Antonio area for more than two decades. The company's latest project is a $500 million, 460,000-square-foot data center at 3397 U.S. Highway 90 West in Castroville, expected to be completed by June 2027.

Katy Hancock, CyrusOne's vice president of community affairs, said positions at a built-out data center include facility operations, critical-environment technicians, security, maintenance, management and customer support.

Many of those jobs do not require a four-year college degree. Workers can enter the field through technical training, certifications, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, etc.

But the specialized nature of the work can make some positions difficult to fill. CyrusOne said its hardest positions to recruit include critical environments operator roles, which are lead technician positions, and senior facility managers. Both typically require prior data center or critical environment experience.

For San Antonio contractor JLA Communications LLC, the industry's rapid construction pace has created a different workforce challenge. JLA supplies structured cabling, audiovisual, security and electrical systems.

In a previous interview, JLA President and CEO Jacob Arocha said the company's workforce grew from about 45 employees to roughly 65 as its data center business expanded. Arocha is a 2026 SABJ C-Suite award honoree.

"Anyone who has worked on a data center project understands the demanding pace and high expectations," he said.

Projects that might normally take 18 months can be compressed into roughly six months, forcing contractors to add workers quickly to meet aggressive schedules.

"Data center speed is very, very fast," Arocha said.

The impact extends beyond the number of workers assigned to a particular project. Arocha said revenue from data center work is helping JLA move toward covering 100% of employee insurance costs and eventually adding retirement benefits as the company competes for talent.

It's a sign that the data center boom is rippling through the economy.

Dan Diorio, executive vice president of state policy and government affairs for the Data Center Coalition, pointed to PwC research released in

GM Report # 81



KURT GRIESBACH

May showing Texas data centers supported about 103,700 direct jobs and roughly 428,660 total jobs in 2024, including indirect and induced effects.

"For every one job in the data center, 4.5 jobs are supported elsewhere in the economy," Diorio said.

Those jobs include electricians, plumbers, pipefitters, HVAC technicians, maintenance contractors, equipment suppliers and businesses that support data center construction and operations – like JLA.

Diorio said many construction jobs tied to large campuses provide longer-term employment than critics often assume.

"We're seeing a lot more six, seven, eight, nine, 10 years worth of job security," he said.

As large campuses expand, construction crews often move from one building to the next rather than leaving the industry when a single project is finished, he said.

Diorio also argued that the industry's employment impact should not be solely measured by the number of people working inside a completed facility.

"I think it's not a fair criticism because it overlooks those employment impacts. It overlooks the ecosystem impact," he said.

The coalition also emphasizes a distinction between data center operators and the companies that use their facilities.

A multitenant operator such as CyrusOne may employ only a few dozen people at a building, but the customers colocating servers inside those facilities may have employees of their own who are not reflected in the operator's headcount, Diorio said.



"Anyone who has worked on a data center project understands the demanding pace and high expectations."

Jacob Arocha, JLA president and CEO

Hyperscale companies that build and operate facilities for their own use can have substantially larger permanent workforces, sometimes exceeding 200 employees at a campus, the coalition said.

Jess Heck, the Data Center Coalition's director of Texas government affairs, said operators are increasingly investing in training programs to expand the skilled labor pipeline.

Heck used a partnership between Compass Datacenters and Texas State Technical College as an example. Through this partnership, students are trained for mechanical, electrical and IT careers supporting the industry.

"Those skills are really transferable, not only from this site but other manufacturing-type sites as well," Heck said. In June, Compass announced a $12.6 million donation of a 40,000-square-foot training facility in Red Oak to expand the program.

Related Digital offers another example of the range in workforce impacts.

The company, along with NextEra Energy Resources and Lewis Energy Group, is proposing Project Star, a $22.3 billion energy and data infrastructure campus in Encinal.

The project is expected to create more than 8,400 construction jobs at peak and hundreds of permanent positions once operational. A Related Digital spokesperson said the project's power campus alone is expected to create about 170 permanent jobs, while the data center component is expected to add hundreds more.

The company said comparable U.S. data center developments with roughly half the planned computing capacity have been estimated to create at least 250 permanent jobs.

Those positions are largely technical, including critical-facilities technicians, operations leads, campus managers and security personnel.

The required skills range from electrical and mechanical trades to apprenticeships, journeyman licenses, technical-school training and military experience. Some engineering and subject-matter expert roles require college degrees.

The question for San Antonio may be less whether data centers create jobs, but how long they last. It may also be does the region has enough workforce to support the industry. ■

GM Report # 82

A Night Under the Stars with Blanco County Young Life

By Tricia Hartmann

Blanco Young Life held their annual banquet at Twin Sisters Dance Hall on October 26th at 6:00 pm. The theme was a Night Under the Stars and it was truly a night to remember as guests gathered for a fun evening. Local musician Cameran Nelson provided music for dancing and several motivational speakers shared the mission of Blanco Young Life.





BHS Seniors Cadence De La Rosa (left) and Kamryn Gaskamp (right) addressing guests at the YL Banquet. Photos by Tricia Hartmann.

Blanco Young Life Director Rex Bailey welcomed everyone and introduced and thanked the Banquet Sponsors: Mark Dean DDS; Property Medic; Allison Homes; Blanco Regional Clinic; and Blanco Pharmacy. Bailey also thanked the adult Young Life committee, Jimmy Klepac for the flowers, Amy Petri's Blanco High School Culinary class for the delicious meal, and the high school students who served the guests.

"Blanco Young Life provides the opportunity to connect with all high school students and to show them what a relationship with Jesus looks like. Some kids come to school each morning wondering where they fit in, and they may carry anxiety, pressure, or loneliness," Bailey said.

Bailey shared the mission of Blanco Young Life, current plans for program growth, and plans for a Wyld Life program for middle schoolers. "We meet kids where they are...at school, football games, and in the community. The Lord provides us with opportunities to pray and work with high school kids, and although staff and numbers are important, nothing is more important than sharing the Gospel. Young Life is unique and exists because caring adults who love teenagers and Jesus work to build relationships with kids."

Blanco Young Life leaders walk the halls of BHS and show up for all kids, not just those with friends but also for those who sit alone at lunch each day and walk around feeling worthless. "These kids need to hear they are loved and to be introduced to Jesus," Bailey said.

"Our mission field is right in our backyard, and it takes leaders who give their time, churches willing to partner with us, and parents, teachers, and community members who believe in investing in teenagers. I love that the Blanco teachers, coaches, and staff love our Young Life leaders who serve as an extra set of eyes in the cafeteria."

Bailey shared the Blanco Young Life vision through 2028 which is to reach more kids and add new leaders who have meaningful interactions with students. "Over the past few years the Lord has provided us with three new leaders. During the past 18 months the number of students we engage with has grown and currently represents about 74% of the total student body of 350."

Bailey said that another mission is to take more kids to camp, and Blanco Young Life is accomplishing this. "We are excited for what the Lord has done in Blanco during the past two years and for what He will do over the next two years."

Blanco High School seniors Kamryn Gaskamp and Cadence De La Rosa spoke about what Young Life means to them. "Young Life has enabled us to step back and focus on what really matters, which is a relationship with Jesus. We are so thankful for the leaders and supporters who help make these experiences possible," Gaskamp said.

Blanco Wyldlife leader Teressa Mackey told the guests, "God put middle schoolers on my heart a long time ago, and now some of our own children are middle schoolers. Middle school kids are in the most transitional phase of life."

Mackey shared that her life was changed because one family invested in her life as a middle schooler. "Our team of 10 adult volunteers love middle school kids. We are all committed and invested in them and recently took a group to a weekend camp. We are excited about the plans for Blanco Wyldlife and are holding monthly events. We'd love for you to join us at the next one on November 7th."

Guest speaker Rip Gibbs has served on Young Life staff for 30 years. Gibbs shared what Young Life means to him.

"My sons all found Christ through Young Life. It is an honor to speak about what I love most...high school kids and Jesus." Gibbs and Rex Bailey met while Rex was in college. There Gibbs taught Rex what it means to mentor high schoolers.

"Rex was incredibly faithful, and he immediately became part of my family. I invited Rex to join the Young Life summer staff as a sound tech which he did. Rex and his wife Katie love kids incredibly well. They and the Blanco Young Life leaders all show up, plant seeds to share Jesus, and are there for kids who seem unreachable."

Gibbs said that the heart of the Young Life ministry is to know everyone by name. "We want to reach them all, and it starts with one kid and one relationship at a time. Young Life leaders show up and give the truth of Jesus to kids who are looking for hope, friends, and answers."

Gibbs recounted several parables illustrating the importance of reaching one person at a time: Jesus fellowshipping with the tax collector Zacheus; the parable of the lost sheep; the woman who searched for the lost coin; and the son who demanded his inheritance, wasted it, and was welcomed home by his father upon his return.

"There is a celebration in heaven when one lost person is found. Jesus said, "In heaven there will be more joy over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who do not."

Gibbs also shared a story illustrating the parable of the lost sheep at a Young Life camp in Africa. "A young man was frozen with fear when he arrived until the cheers, singing, and welcome from everyone overcame his fear and he was able to join them. The lost sheep had been found."



Blanco County Young Life Directors Rex & Katie Bailey. Photo by Tricia Hartmann.

"This is what we want for each kid, to know there is a God who knows and loves them, and to be the son of the King. We invite you to be part of this mission by helping leaders help kids in Blanco who also need someone to show up for them which in turn transforms lives."

Donations from the Banquet raised 21% of the 2027 budget. There is still a $63,000 need for the remainder of the budget. Anyone wishing to contribute may do so on the website: blanco.younglife.org

Each contribution enables the love of Jesus Christ to be shared with teenagers in Blanco. This generosity helps build relationships with teenagers, supports caring leaders, creates opportunities for students to attend camp, and shares the hope of Jesus.



Blanco County WyldLife Director Teressa Mackey spoke at the Banquet. Photo by Tricia Hartmann.

GM Report #83

BPGCD from Page 1

Kubinski reported that both items had been properly posted with no public comment received, and the public hearing closed at 1:46 p.m.

A discussion followed regarding the Adoption of Rule Amendments 4.1.D and 4.3.B. Klepac recused himself for Rule 4.1.D because of a conflict of interest as an agricultural irrigator. Rule 4.1.D creates an agricultural use exemption from annual production reporting, requiring written certification, 90-day notification of use changes, and permitting District verification inspections. Rule 4.3.B increases minimum grouting depth for new wells from 10 to 50 feet (with field approvals available for shallower potable strata) and mandates aquifer isolation documentation for wells penetrating Edwards-Trinity, Upper Glen Rose, or Marble Falls aquifers.

Both rule revisions were adopted by the Board effective November 1, 2026. Kubinski will notify the public through outreach, social media, and press releases. Drillers will receive the press release and rule change during well registration. Sultemeier and Murrah motioned for approval of Rule 4.1.D, and the motion passed 4-0 with 1 abstention. A motion for approval of Rule 4.3.B was given by Reynolds and Stevens, and this motion passed unanimously.

Lead Auditor Taylor Boeker from Seidel Schroder presented audit materials for the year ending September 30, 2025, with a clean, unmodified opinion. Motion to adopt the FY25 Financial Audit report was made by Stevens and Murrah and passed unanimously.

The board approved a revised FY27 Fee Schedule adding export permit fees including a $3,000 application fee and 20.6 cents per thousand gallons of water exported. This change was required per the rule change in April 2026 and there were no other fee changes. Sultemeier and Reynolds motioned for approval and the motion passed unanimously.

Legem Ranch Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

The findings were prepared after an information request and reviewed by General Counsel, and sent to the applicant who did not reply. The board had previously approved the permit and adopting the findings finalizes the order. Ellis said the applicant may file a motion for rehearing within 20 days and any lawsuit must follow that process. The adopted findings would be reviewed by courts under the substantial evidence rule. Sultemeier and Murrah motioned for approval and the motion passed unanimously.

INTERA Work Order 8 — Hydrogeology Support.

Kubinski presented Work Order 8 from INTERA for Hydrogeological Support. The WO is a continuation of last year's WO which expired on Sept 30, 2026. The terms did not change from last year where they are on a time-and-materials basis and capped at $10,000 through September 30, 2027. Stevens and Sultemeier motioned for approval and the motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Priorities

The board adopted a resolution with five priorities for the 90th Texas Legislature: local board management, clarifying takings, state legal defense, regulating high-water-demand projects, and balancing conservation with property rights. Kubinski and Ellis are authorized to advocate for those priorities. A letter to Senator Donna Campbell and Representative Ellen Troxclair had already been prepared on the first priority advocating for local board management. Reynolds and Murrah motioned for approval, and the motion passed unanimously.

Drought Conditions

Kubinski reported that the Pedernales watershed is solidly in stage 3 Drought and the Blanco watershed is near stage 2, with recent rain insufficient to recharge the aquifer. Kubinski recommended moving to stage 3. Stevens asked about separate stages by watershed, and the board agreed to maintain one countywide stage to avoid confusing residents. The drought stage was raised from stage 2 to stage 3, effective immediately, with public notice authorized. A motion to approve by Stevens and Sultemeier passed unanimously.

Kubinski presented the General Manager's Report and Ellis updated the board on LCRA vs. Lost Pines GCD which was heard by the Texas Supreme Court on October 6, and which will decide whether rehearing motions expire at 91 days (Water Code) or 55 days (Texas Administrative Procedure Act).

Kubinski shared updates on Region K, GMA 9, the TWDB grant, Job Descriptions, and local news and industry updates. Kubinski also presented updates on the HCA Leadership Summit, the Edwards Aquifer Authority outreach center tour, and Well-Informed 2026 partnership with AgriLife Extension for water testing which is scheduled for November 18.

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19th at 1:30 pm, and the December meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15th at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm following motion from Sultemeier and Murrah.

BPGCD BOARD ADOPTS TWO RULE AMENDMENTS ON WELL REPORTING AND AQUIFER PROTECTION

District revises agricultural reporting requirements and strengthens aquifer isolation standards for new wells; new rules effective November 1, 2026

JOHNSON CITY, TX. On October 16, 2026, the Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District (BPGCD) Board of Directors voted to adopt two rule amendments: one revising production reporting requirements for agricultural wells and one strengthening aquifer isolation standards for new wells. Both amendments take effect November 1, 2026.

These are the District's first rule amendments since the Board approved a comprehensive set of rule amendments on April 16, 2026, continuing the Board's ongoing review and revision of District rules.

Rule 4.1.D: Agricultural Production Reporting Exemption

Under the amended Rule 4.1.D, wells used solely for agricultural use are exempt from the annual production reporting requirement, provided well owners submit a written certification declaring agricultural use and describing their operation (acreage, crops, or livestock). This change reduces administrative burden on farmers and ranchers while maintaining oversight.

"The District recognizes that agricultural operators represent a significant portion of our permittees," said General Manager Erik Kubinski. "This amendment streamlines compliance without compromising our ability to track regional groundwater use."

Well owners must notify the District within 90 days if use changes from agricultural to other purposes, at which point full reporting resumes. The District reserves the right to periodically review certifications and conduct inspections to verify eligibility. Misrepresentation may result in revocation of the exemption and enforcement action under Rule 9.

Rule 4.3.B: Enhanced Grouting and Aquifer Isolation Standards

Rule 4.3.B, developed in consultation with the District's consulting hydrogeologist, establishes stricter grouting and isolation requirements for new wells:

- Minimum grouting depth increased from 10 to 50 feet, with field approvals available when the first potable water-bearing strata lies at shallower depths (minimum 10-foot floor)
- Prohibition on commingling groundwater from different aquifers or chemically distinct water-bearing zones
- Wells penetrating the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau), Upper Glen Rose, or Marble Falls aquifers must isolate overlying zones from the intended production interval using approved mechanical isolation devices
- Required documentation includes borehole and casing specifications, aquifer encounter logs, isolation device details, and annular seal measurements

"These standards protect groundwater quality by preventing cross-aquifer contamination," said the District's Consulting Hydrogeologist, Neil Deeds. "The enhanced grouting requirements reflect best practices in modern well construction."

Implementation

The General Manager is authorized to notify the public through outreach, social media, and press releases. Licensed water well drillers will receive copies of the rule changes during well registration. Alternative aquifer-isolation methods may be approved upon written determination that they provide equivalent or greater protection.

About BPGCD

The Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District manages groundwater resources in Blanco County, Texas, balancing conservation with responsible property use. The District regulates well permits, enforces production reporting, and develops drought contingency plans.

For questions or additional information, contact General Manager Erik Kubinski at gm@blancogroundwatertx.gov or call (830) 868-9196

Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District announces escalation to Drought Stage 3

Johnson City, TX — Oct. 15, 2026 — The Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District (BPGCD) today announced that, following a unanimous vote by the Board of Directors, the district is officially moving from Drought Stage 2 to Drought Stage 3, effective immediately. This escalation reflects the continued decline in groundwater levels across the district and the heightened risk to municipal, agricultural, and residential water supplies.

Current Conditions

- Monitoring Well Data: The latest aggregate analysis of the district's network of monitoring wells (see the below graph entitle, "Average Normalized Water Levels") shows a sustained drop in water tables, pushing the average water level below the threshold defined for Drought Stage 3 in the BlancoPedernales **Drought Index (BPDI).**
- BPDI Model: The BPDI model, which integrates the regional Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (PHDI), now classifies the district's overall water status as severe (Stage 3), indicating that water levels are critically low and that existing supplies may not meet essential demand without additional conservation measures.

WANTED

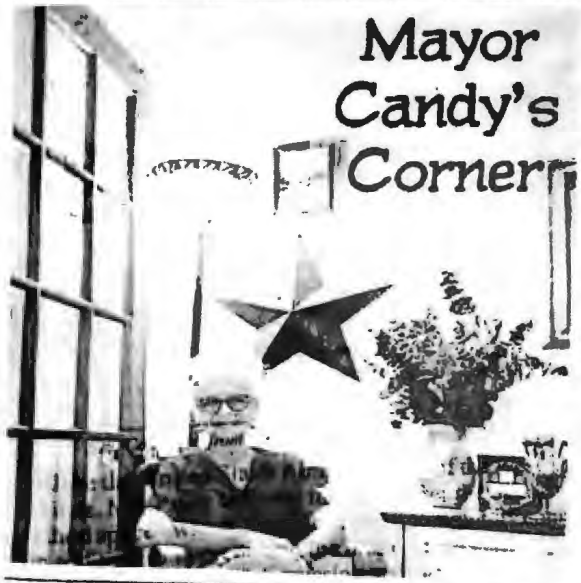
Part-time delivery driver



Delivering
The Blanco County News
The Johnson City Record Courier
and the Hill Country Current

Email wesnermedia@gmail.com
for more info or to apply.

COMMUNITY NEWS



A Dream Worth Celebrating: Buggy Barn Museum Day Is November 7

Saturday, November 7, 2026, is Buggy Barn Museum Day in Blanco—a day to bring the family, enjoy something for everyone, and celebrate a hometown treasure.

A highlight of the festivities will be the presentation of the Key to the City to Dennis Moore, Sr., recognizing his dedication to preserving history and bringing pride and recognition to Blanco.

Named Best Museum in Texas and most recently recognized with Google's People's Choice honors, the Buggy Barn Museum gives our community plenty to celebrate. Behind those honors is a man who is truly "living his dream"—and sharing it with everyone who walks through the doors.

Dennis has poured his heart into creating a place where history comes to life, stories are preserved, and visitors of all ages can discover a connection to the past. His enthusiasm has made the museum more than a collection; it is an experience that draws people to Blanco and gives them a reason to return.

Of course, a dream this big takes many hands and hearts. Dennis's family and the dedicated staff and supporters who surround him deserve recognition, too. Their hard work, encouragement, and hospitality help make the museum the special place it is.

Please join us November 7 as we celebrate Dennis, his team, and all they have accomplished. Come enjoy a fun family day and help us say thank you.

What a shining star we have right here in Blanco!

For the ♥ of Blanco,
Candy Cargill, Mayor



Dennis Moore, Sr

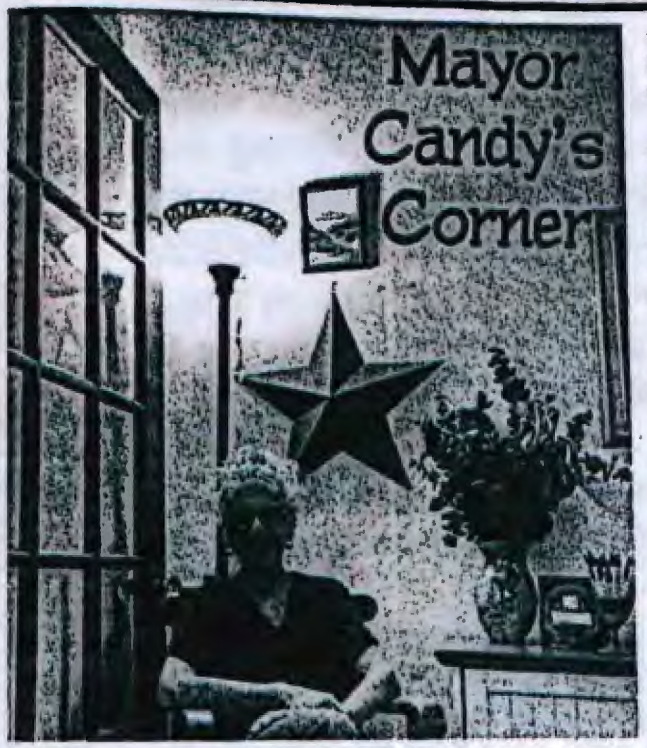
BPA Continued from Page 1

will be the United States Air Force Band of the West Spectrum Winds. Ms. Pautz believes that "arts offer the opportunity for a third space" where people can make community connections in addition to appreciating the music. Each concert has complimentary wine at intermission sponsored by local winery Riviere Blanc, and Ms. Pautz hop[illegible] and include pieces from Brahms, the popular "Orange Blossom Special" as well as pieces from Ms. Pautz's favorite composers. She says, "I don't play music I don't love." The 17th season is just getting underway but Ms. Pautz was already [illegible] next season and there

Housing Continued from Page 1

peak demand? H[illegible] erating expenses, debt obligations, and futur[illegible]

COMMUNITY NEWS



Dear Blanco,

Driving to the office Sunday, I spotted a little boy walking in the road, so I slowed down. The next thing I knew, he jumped into a puddle and laughed and laughed. Pure joy over something so simple. Had I not slowed down, I would have missed it!

Sometimes government requires us to slow down, too. Does waiting frustrate me? You bet it does! Patience probably won't ever be my strongest quality. But taking the time to work through the details, listen, and get things right is part of building something worthwhile. I believe the finished product will be worth the wait.

And speaking of worthwhile—did you have a great weekend? If you were around Blanco, you certainly had plenty of opportunities!

There was the Veterans Day Parade and the annual Veterans Day event at Milam & Greene, featuring all-veteran vendors—a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and support those who have served our country.

Buggy Barn Museum Family Day brought families together, and I had the honor of presenting Dennis Moore with the Key to the City. Add the Diaz family's outstanding horses, mariachis, Pistol Packin' Paula, and a concert or two, and you had yourself quite a weekend!

Then there was Twin Sisters and the celebration of JoNell Haas receiving the Governor's Yellow Rose of Texas Award. JoNell, how proud we are of you! It is wonderful to see someone who means so much to our community receive such special recognition.

And Blanco still had a surprise up its sleeve. While visiting with friends at Milam & Greene, who should I meet and enjoy a wonderful conversation with? None other than Texas Lieutenant Governor-elect Vikki Goodwin! You just never know who you'll run into in Blanco.

To everyone who planned, volunteered, performed, hosted, and helped make this weekend happen—thank you. You give us so many reasons to be proud of our little town.

This weekend reminded me that there is joy in a puddle, pride in our neighbors, and something good waiting around the corner.

Sometimes we just have to slow down long enough to see it.

For the ♥ of Blanco, Candy Cargill
Mayor



GM Report #33

Mayor Candy Cargill gave the invocation at the Milam & Greene's



Key to the City...Dennis Moore Sr., Amanda Smith, Kelly Moore, and Mayor Candy Cargill.

The Buggy Barn held their annual Family Fun Day which included shows by Pistol Packin' Paula, horsemanship by The Diaz Family, musical performances by Mariachi Los Viajeros, and The Western Sage.

Mayor Candy Cargill presented Dennis Moore with the Key to the City of Blanco and recognized him for the museum's recent recognition of "Best Museum in Texas and a top review award by Google. Mayor Cargill also recognized Mr. Moore's passion for history and service to Blanco, saying he already had "the key to our heart" and then presented him with the Key to the City.

Please go to *FLAGS* on Page 9



Elizabeth Krobot and Jaymeson McWhorter are proud to salute veterans (Contributed photo)



Teresa Taylor-Babb elected as Blanco County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1

By Tricia Hartmann

Republican nominee and Johnson City Councilwoman Teresa Taylor-Babb and Independent nominee Casey White engaged in a hard-fought race for election as Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1 on November 3rd. White was nominated by the County Commissioners and ran as a write-in candidate. The election followed the death of incumbent Randy Brodbeck who ran unopposed in the March GOP primary. No Democrat sought the position.

Newly elected JP, Precinct 1 Taylor-Babb said, "My goal is to serve the people of Precinct 1 and ensure the court continues to operate efficiently and is accessible to the community. I want everyone who comes before the court to feel they have been heard and are treated with dignity and respect. I also recognize that there is always more to learn, and I intend to continue growing in the role so I can serve this community to the best of my ability."

Taylor-Babb thanked her husband, Paul, and her family first and foremost for their support, as well as many others who played a part for which she is truly grateful.

"Most importantly, thank you to the voters who placed their trust in me. I don't take that lightly, and I look forward to getting to work."

Please go to *ELECTION* on Page 2



Casey White & family. Casey ran as a write-in candidate in the recent JP, Precinct 1 race.

White told the JCRC, "While the outcome wasn't what I hoped for, I'm truly grateful to everyone who took the extra step to write in my name. To those who shared a kind word, made a phone call, put up a sign, or spoke up on my behalf, thank you."

"Every bit of your support meant something to me and my family, especially on the difficult days. It has been an honor to serve this community, and I will always appreciate the trust and encouragement you've given me."



Pictured are newly elected JP, Precinct 1 Teresa Taylor-Babb and husband Paul Babb. (Contributed photos)

...uipment and Bible
...s. Horn said, "I did
... and all vehicles are
...orn asked the mem-
...k check after calls
...form is aware of the
...n. The information
...D reporting.
...ancials were unan-
...notion and second
... Mixx, Jr., and by
...n, respectively.
...n Chartop has com-
...y period with the
... of Nolan were very
...willingness to learn
... active participation
... and responsiveness

...np Elliott motioned
...full firefighter sta-
... unanimously, and
...s all around.
... for the department
... on October 31st at
...on with food, fun,
...r the trick-or-treat-

...will include a train-
...ber 11th and the
...ember 25th. Also
... training on aban-

...zed by the group
...o the quarry to
...formation to the
... the river's quality
... of the watershed
...ld potentially be
... by the quarry's
... outlined in the
...r permit.

...AN TODAY

Georgia Hartmann honors a veteran's grave in the Twin Sisters cemetery in honor of Veterans Day. (Contributed photo)

cinct 1 and ensure the court continues to op-

Please go to *ELECTION* on Page 2

Quarry meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday

By Stefanie Wright

A meeting of the Advisory Council for the proposed quarry at US Highway 281 and FM 473 will be held Thursday November 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Old 300 BBQ Back Forty room in Blanco.

The quarry is managed by McCar Materials on land leased to operator Peter Nunez by Southwick Development LLC, which was formed by property owners Rodney Topper and Kyle Phenix. The quarry has been granted temporary permits for stormwater and rock crushing by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). These permits can be viewed at TCEQ's website.

The quarry has been the subject of intense scrutiny and pushback from a neighboring community, Stallion Estates. The subdivision is home to a large population of veterans, many of whom have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and health issues as a result of their service. The servicemen and women have petitioned numerous local and state elected representatives in an effort to highlight the potential negative impacts to their property values, health, and quality of life as a result of a quarry operating in such close proximity to an established neighborhood. The quarry is in Blanco county, and counties have limited power over land use.

The city of Blanco's main water line runs parallel to US Highway 281 in a perpetual easement on the property, and the proposed entrance of the quarry will frequently accommodate trucks laden with heavy material over the water main. City staff and Mayor Candy Cargill have seats on the council.

The meeting's agenda includes 20 minutes for public comment at the top of the meeting, and will cover the progress with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on the driveway entrance, truck scale installation, "the planned ground-

Please go to *QUARRY* on Page 2



Inside each issue:





Bible and Horn encouraged everyone to reach out with any questions.

doned vehicles.

QUARRY from Page 1

breaking before the end of 2026", the ongoing evaluation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), and council questions and feedback among other topics. Nunez has indicated in prior meetings that he has signed a 20 year lease with Topper & Phenix with an option to renew it for an additional 20 years if the material he finds at the site supports an operation of that scale.

A 2023 Meadows Center environmental study of the Little Blanco River was presented at a July meeting organized by the group opposed to the quarry to provide information to the public on the river's quality and health of the watershed which could potentially be impacted by the quarry's operations outlined in the stormwater permit.

THANK A VETERAN TO

"Those words could brighten their day more than any human being could possibly imagine. The question is not

paralyzed while fighting [illegible] the freedom of the United States.

"So, every year on No-

updates of where our total was at. The students are also very impressed at how

Private well owners invited to water screening event in Blanco County

JOHNSON CITY, Texas — Private well owners in Blanco County and surrounding areas are invited to participate in the Texas Well Owner Network's "Well Informed" water screening program November 18–19. The educational program provides an opportunity to have household well water screened for common contaminants and to learn how to protect private drinking-water wells.

Water samples will be screened for fecal coliform, E. coli bacteria, nitrates and high salinity. Following the screening, participants are encouraged to attend a one-hour results and interpretation meeting covering water-quality results, wellhead protection practices and options for addressing well contamination.

Samples may be dropped off from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, November 18, at either of these locations:

- Blanco County AgriLife Extension Office, 200 N. Ave. G, Suite 7, Johnson City
- Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District Office, 601 W. Main St., Johnson City

Participants should collect their water in a new, unused 12- to 20-ounce water bottle. Printable collection instructions and a sample information sheet are available at twon.tamu.edu.

The results and interpretation meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Thursday, November 19, at the Blanco County Community Resource Center, 206 Highway 281 South in Johnson City.

The cost is $15 per sample. Participants may submit as many samples as they wish. Exact change, or checks made to the order of RANGELAND EXTENSION. No credit cards accepted.

The first 10 people submitting samples at either location will receive the gift of the cost of ONE sample paid for by the Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District.

For more information, contact Joel Pigg at 830-275-3866 or j-pigg@tamu.edu.

HILL COUNTRY FOCUS
Your Breaking News Source for the Texas Hill Country
THE PLACE TO FIND BREAKING NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS, AREA EVENTS, AND GOVERNMENT.
VISIT HillCountryFocus.com
OR USE YOUR CAMERA APP TO SCAN