



SETGCD Well Monitor

Volume 19
Issue 1
Summer
2026

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Open Seat - Tyler County

John Martin, General Manager
Gregory M. Ellis, Esq., Counsel

Did you know that the human brain is composed of about 75% water? How important is hydration to you now?

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New offices of the Southeast Texas GCD (signage not yet installed – digitally added to photo)

New District Offices

If you read our last edition, you know that we needed some additional space because of growth and we are now pleased to announce that we have a new office location: **1017 FM 105, Evadale, TX 77615**. In addition to the new location, we also have a new phone number which is **(409) 276-9004**.

We encourage well owners, drillers, consultants, other state agencies, and anyone who is curious about groundwater to stop on by. The

District staff is here to help the community access forms, well registration information, permit guidance, board meeting agendas, drought resources, and conservation education.

We are planning an open house for later this year (probably late this summer or early in the fall) and we will be inviting the public as well as area officials. Once a date is chosen, we will reach out with an invitation.

District Awarded \$123,000 Grant

The Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District (SETGCD) has been awarded a grant by the state through the Texas Water Development Board in the amount of nearly \$123,000. These funds became available after the most recent legislative session, as state leaders recognized the need for additional groundwater and land-surface data in areas where long-term monitoring information is limited. These funds will be used to

install data collection sites known as Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS).

The aquifer system beneath the SETGCD, the Gulf Coast Aquifer System, is vulnerable to subsidence. Subsidence is the gradual lowering of the ground surface elevation. Subsidence occurs when large volumes of groundwater are withdrawn over time, causing fine-grained sediments such as clay and

silt to compact. To better monitor subsidence, the District has been working to install CORS stations in the District. One such station was installed in Jasper County last year, a few miles south of Buna, Texas.

Each CORS station typically costs approximately \$25,000, depending on the equipment selected and site specific installation needs. Factors such as access to electrical service, or the (continued on page 2 – Grant)



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(Continued from page 1 – Grant) need for a battery and solar-power system, will affect the final cost of each CORS site.

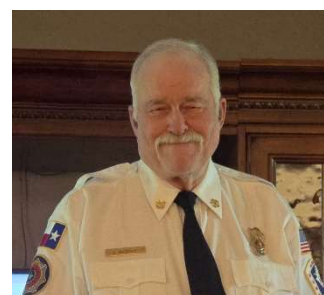
CORS stations use high-precision GPS technology to measure small changes in land-surface elevation over time. Several years of measurements are needed to establish a reliable baseline. Once that baseline is developed, the stations will help determine whether subsidence is occurring within the District and, if so, how quickly land elevation is changing. Small short-term variations in elevation are expected, but long-term trends are important for groundwater management. In the Greater Houston area, where subsidence districts rather than groundwater districts manage this issue, monitoring data shows that some locations have experienced 15 feet or more of subsidence since the 1940s. Because SETGCD shares the same regional aquifer system with those areas, local monitoring provides an important early-warning tool. For more information on subsidence, visit the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District website at: <https://hgsubsidence.org/>.

Fortunately, the SETGCD was established to manage our local groundwater resources before significant subsidence impacts have occurred within the District. The grant funding will be used to install four additional CORS stations, providing at least one monitoring station in each of the District's four counties. Either Hardin County or Jasper County will receive a second station because these counties are experiencing more growth than Newton County or Tyler County. The expanded monitoring network will improve the District's ability to collect scientific data, which will then be used to evaluate long-term land-elevation trends, confirm and calibrate groundwater availability models, and will assist us in the long-term management and protection of our groundwater resources for future generations.

New Directors:

The District brought on board two new Directors at the beginning of the year (and will be adding a third new Director at our upcoming July meeting). The new Directors are replacing Billy Ted Smith, Thomas Hawthorne, and Brent Marcum.

Mr. Larry McBride was appointed by the Jasper County Commissioner's Court to fill the position previously held by Mr. Billy Ted Smith. Larry graduated from Jasper High School in 1969, began his long career with Mobil Oil Corp. in 1971, and retired from ExxonMobil Oil Corp. in 2009. He moved through the ranks starting out as a laborer, pipefitter, Safety Inspector, and then was promoted to a first line Safety Supervisor, finishing the last 20 years of his career as ExxonMobil Beaumont Complex Fire Chief. He is currently employed by ALLCO Construction Company as their Safety Manager. Larry has also been serving his community since 1985 as a volunteer firefighter/paramedic and is currently Chief of the Buna Volunteer Fire Department. He also serves on the Board of Directors for East Texas Mutual Aid Association, and the Sabine-Neches Chief's Association.



Larry was born and raised in Jasper Texas and moved to Buna, Texas in 1975. He has been happily married to his wife Paula McBride for 40 years, and has two sons and three granddaughters.



Ms. Keina McDaniel was appointed by the Newton County Commissioner's Court to fill the position previously held by Ms. Deana Gibson who stepped down from the board to pursue an employment opportunity. Keina is a public servant with extensive experience in court administration, floodplain management, and disaster recovery. She currently serves as a Court Clerk and Certified Floodplain Administrator for Newton County. She also has a degree in Criminal Justice specializing in Constitutional Law.

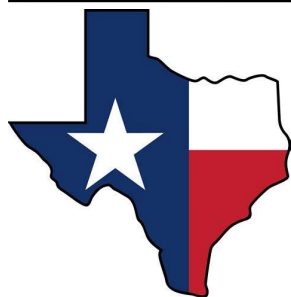
Keina is a long-time Newton County resident, a proud mother of two and a business owner. She enjoys spending time with her family, caring for her chickens, fishing, hunting, and playing pool. She values faith, family, and community and believes in giving back through service and hard work.



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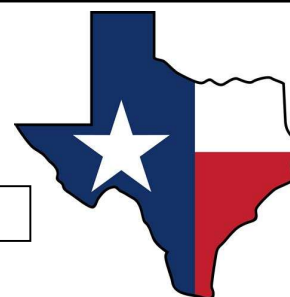
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Texas 90th Regular Legislative Session

Hold on to your hats, it's gonna be wild ride!



Water has always been one of Texas' most important economic resources, but groundwater is increasingly becoming one of its most contested. As lawmakers prepare for the next legislative session, groundwater policy is expected to be a major topic of discussion due to population growth, industrial expansion, data centers, export projects, and recurring drought conditions, all of which are placing greater pressure on the state's water resources, especially its aquifers.

Two key issues are very likely to be at the forefront of the upcoming session: 1) data centers which, depending on how they are engineered, can be very water intensive; and 2) large scale groundwater export projects, which usually means groundwater being moved from rural areas to urban areas. Along with those key issues being discussed will be a myriad of related issues such as groundwater conservation district (GCD) rules and regulations, regionalization of groundwater districts, the creation of numerous new GCDs, and even the long-held doctrine of The Rule of Capture will be open for discussion. Texas is the only state left that still utilizes this doctrine and many people believe it is time to consider making changes to it.

The Rule of Capture is considered a very important property right here in Texas. It essentially states that you own all the water under your property and can use it for any beneficial use as long as you aren't being malicious or knowingly causing subsidence. Most other states see groundwater as a state resource and manage it from that point of view. However, in Texas the Rule of Capture is subject to the rules of a GCD if there is one in place. If there isn't a GCD in place, use of the groundwater is essentially unfettered and, more frightening, the

groundwater resource is completely un-managed. Currently GCDs cover about 75% of the state (the majority of which, but not all, are based on county lines). Many of the 80 or so counties that do not have a GCD are considering creating one or asking to be annexed into one because it is the only way to manage and protect the resource from potentially disastrous overuse.

The northeast corner of the State has a cluster of about 22 counties, without a GCD. Smith County is spearheading what may be the creation of a 16 county GCD in that area, and are in the process of hiring a firm to assist them through the legislative process to get the district created.

Houston County received a "wake up call" when a large export project came, in part, to their county (the large Kyle Bass proposed project, the majority of which is located in the Trinity & Neches Valleys GCD) and has begun the process of creating a GCD by way of landowner petition. Although this does not involve legislative action, it highlights the frenetic concerns surrounding groundwater.

Similarly, without legislative action, Trinity County is also without a GCD and has recently requested that it be considered for annexation by two different neighboring GCDs. If the proper steps are taken, an existing GCD can annex neighboring areas; however, this still requires a county wide confirmation election to approve and finalize the process. Additionally, I have personally been contacted by the Sabine County Judge (elect) who is interested in the formation of a GCD possibly in conjunction with Shelby and San Augustine Counties. These are just the potential new districts in east Texas.

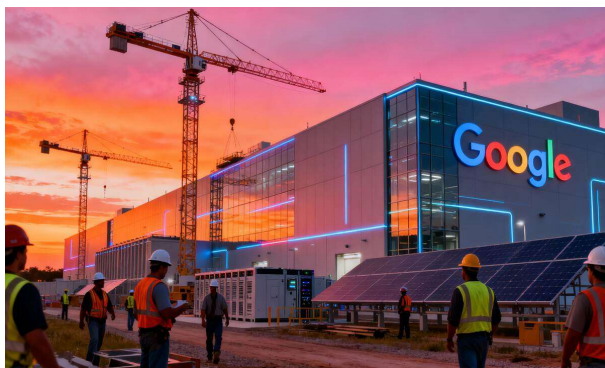


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Data centers are likely to be a focal point during the next legislative session because they combine two resource demands that Texas is already struggling to manage: water and electricity. Texas has become one of the fastest growing data center markets in the country, with facilities clustered in Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, and West Texas, and many more projects are being proposed throughout the State. Hood County, Texas, alone has 8 proposed data centers. Depending on the cooling technology used, these facilities can require large volumes of water to keep servers operating safely, especially during hot weather. A recent Houston Advanced Research Center analysis estimated that existing Texas data centers collectively use roughly 25 billion gallons of water per year, with potential growth to tens of billions more gallons annually by 2030 if planned projects are built. This is especially concerning because Texas is already dealing with recurring drought, aging water infrastructure, rapid population growth, and increasing pressure on aquifers and surface water supplies.



The electrical side of the issue may be just as significant. Data centers operate around the clock and can require as much power as a small city or, in the case of very large artificial intelligence campuses, far more. ERCOT has reported a sharp increase in requests from large power users seeking to connect to the Texas grid, and many of those requests are tied to data centers. State officials have begun emphasizing that data center developers should not shift the cost of new power generation, transmission upgrades, or water infrastructure onto ordinary ratepayers. For groundwater policy, this means data centers cannot be viewed only as economic development projects; they should also be evaluated for their full water and power footprint, and their effect on local communities.

Governor Abbott has announced that data centers will be a priority issue during the next session and will take steps to grapple with data center related issues, including:

- Requiring data centers to bring power to the grid.
- Making sure that infrastructure upgrades and buildout costs are paid for by the data centers.
- Mandating that “closed loop” cooling systems are utilized, which can reduce the amount of water needed by as much as 90%. (There is however a caveat to that. There is a direct inverted correlation between the amount of water used and the amount of electricity used. More water typically means less electricity is needed, with less water used meaning more electricity is needed.)
- Repealing unnecessary data center incentives such as sale tax exemptions.

Some data center developers are quickly making adjustments in an effort to at least appear to be good neighbors. Google for instance has 2 data center facilities in Texas and claims to have brought online 7.8 gigawatts of power to the ERCOT system, and by paying for 100% of the infrastructure associated with their projects. They are also taking steps to use only closed loop systems on new facilities and, when possible, when upgrading older facilities using the closed loop system on any expansions. Fermi-America has a large AI project in the Amarillo area called Project Matador, which is a proposed 18 million square foot AI processing campus. Early in the project, power is expected to be generated by natural gas, however, long term goals are nuclear power, with a goal of bringing 11 gigawatts online.

This is just a very brief and far from an exhaustive overview of what is expected to be considered during the upcoming legislative session. I recommend that anyone interested in following water issues go to the Texas Legislature website at: <https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/> and sign up for the committee hearing notifications for the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, as well as the House Committee on Natural Resources. Once the session begins and hearings are scheduled you will be notified of each committee meeting agenda and be able to attend virtually.

Pull your hat down tight and hold on!



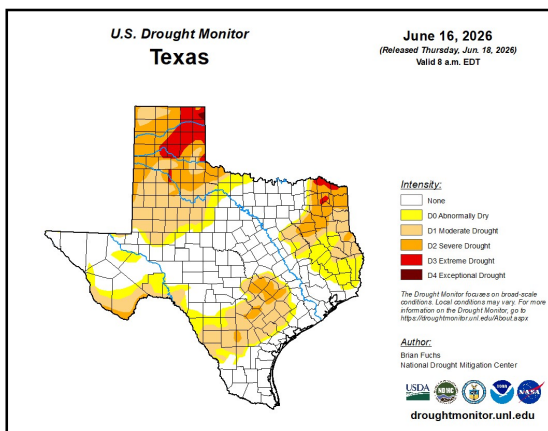
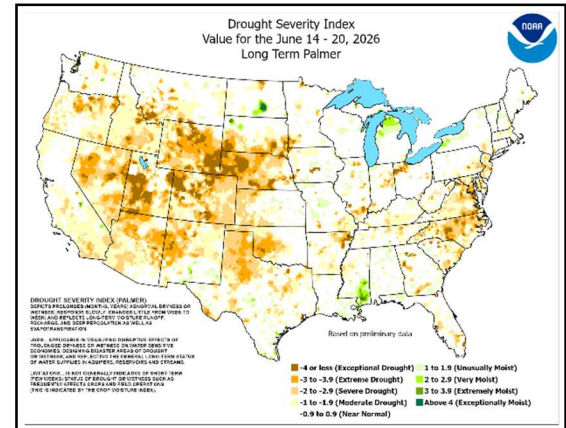
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DROUGHT CONDITIONS

As you can see from the June 14, 2026 U.S. Palmer Drought Severity Index Map (P.D.S.I.), generally speaking East Texas is experiencing near normal conditions right now. This was not the case for the better part of the last 6 - 8 months, with much of the area being categorized as experiencing between severe and extreme drought conditions. The majority of these drought conditions have been erased due to above average rainfalls over the past 2 months. Some areas have received as much as 18 inches in that time period. Even receiving below average rainfalls through the first quarter of the year, with the recent rainfalls the area is on pace to reach our average annual totals of between 52 – 54 inches.



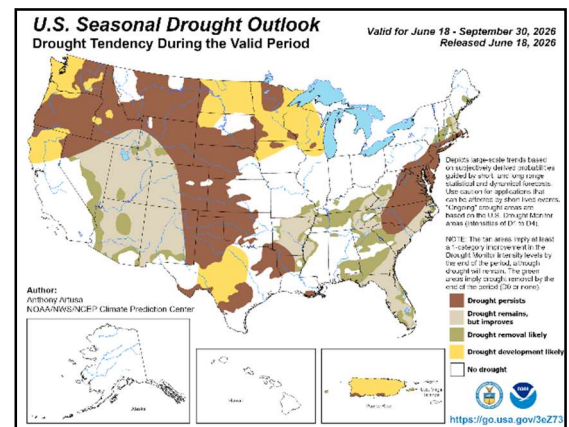
Even though most of the area has received significant rainfall over the past 2 months, as you can see from the June 16, 2026, U.S. Drought Monitor map, most of the area is still being categorized as “abnormally dry”. If we go back to the beginning of May and look at the U.S. Drought Monitor Map (not shown) the data is drastically different. It shows about 80% of the District was experiencing severe conditions. Similarly, if we look at statewide numbers, in mid-March over 98% of the State was experiencing drought conditions, 80% was in the moderate to exceptional category, and nearly 50% was categorized in the severe – exceptional category. In March only about 1% of the state was not experiencing drought conditions, and today almost 47% of the state is drought free..

Predicting our weather is and always has been challenging, however, we have entered an El Niño pattern, and this typically brings cooler, wetter weather to Texas.

SEASONAL DROUGHT OUTLOOK

As you can see from the June 18, 2026, U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook map, our area is showing no drought conditions. This is only a recent change as we have been experiencing severe drought conditions for much of the past 6 months.

The National Weather Service/NOAA indicates that we are in an El Niño weather pattern which is expected to last through the 2026 – 2027 winter. NOAA is also predicting a high probability of it becoming a “Super El Niño” this winter. What does this mean for our area? El Niño typically brings more moisture and precipitation to Texas, along with cooler temperatures, especially along the Gulf Coast. With a little luck, the El Niño will alleviate some of the drought conditions still being felt across the state. Another added benefit of El Niño is that it brings high winds to the atmosphere above the Atlantic. This reduces the number of Atlantic hurricanes and rarely allows one to reach the Texas Gulf Coast.





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Reducing Wasteful Water Practices, One Step at a Time

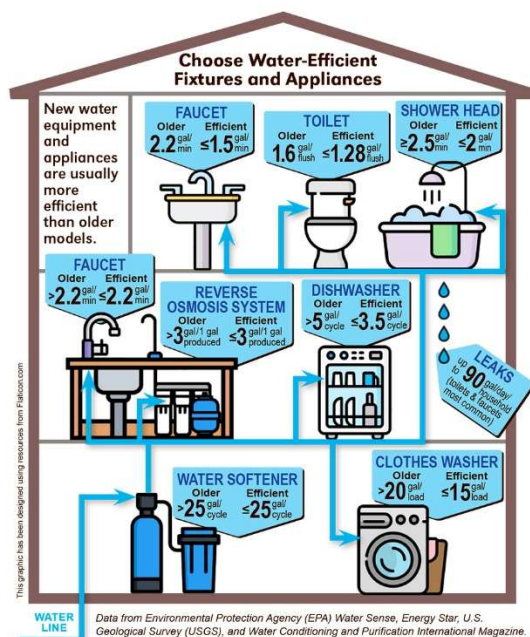
CONSERVATION CORNER

Water is part of almost every moment of daily life. It helps us prepare meals, wash our hands, care for our homes, grow food, and stay healthy. Because it is always there when we turn on the tap, it can be easy to forget how valuable it really is. Reducing wasteful water practices does not have to feel strict or overwhelming. Often, it begins with small, thoughtful choices that make everyday routines a little more mindful.

One of the simplest ways to save water is to notice when it is running without purpose. Turning off the faucet while brushing teeth, shaving, or scrubbing dishes can prevent gallons from going down the drain. In the kitchen, scraping plates instead of rinsing them under running water and waiting until the dishwasher is full before starting are easy habits that add up over time. These changes may seem small, but they help create a rhythm of using only what is needed.

Leaks are another quiet source of waste. A dripping faucet or a running toilet may not seem urgent, yet even a small leak can waste a surprising amount of water. It is estimated that more than 10% of household water use is lost via leaks. That adds up to billions of gallons a year across the U.S. being wasted. Checking faucets, toilets, outdoor hoses, and irrigation systems from time to time can make a real difference. Fixing leaks promptly is also a practical way to lower utility bills and protect a home from avoidable damage.

Outdoor water use offers another opportunity for gentle conservation. Watering lawns or plants early in the morning or later in the evening helps reduce evaporation and get more of the water to the plants. Choosing native or drought-tolerant plants can also lessen the need for frequent watering while still keeping outdoor spaces beautiful. Even something as simple as sweeping a driveway or using a blower instead of spraying it with a hose can save water without requiring much effort.



Inside the home, water-efficient fixtures and appliances can support better habits. Low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, efficient toilets, and high-efficiency washing machines are designed to use less water while still meeting everyday needs. These upgrades are not necessary all at once, but they can be considered gradually when items need repair or replacement. Thoughtful purchasing can turn normal home maintenance into long-term conservation. It is also important to be mindful of electricity use because it takes quite a bit of water to generate electricity. Washing clothes in cold water saves electricity by reducing the need to heat water. A tankless water heater may also be worth considering because it uses energy only when hot water is needed, while traditional tank-style water heaters cycle regularly to keep water hot and ready for use.

Reducing wasteful water practices is not about perfection. It is about paying attention, making small

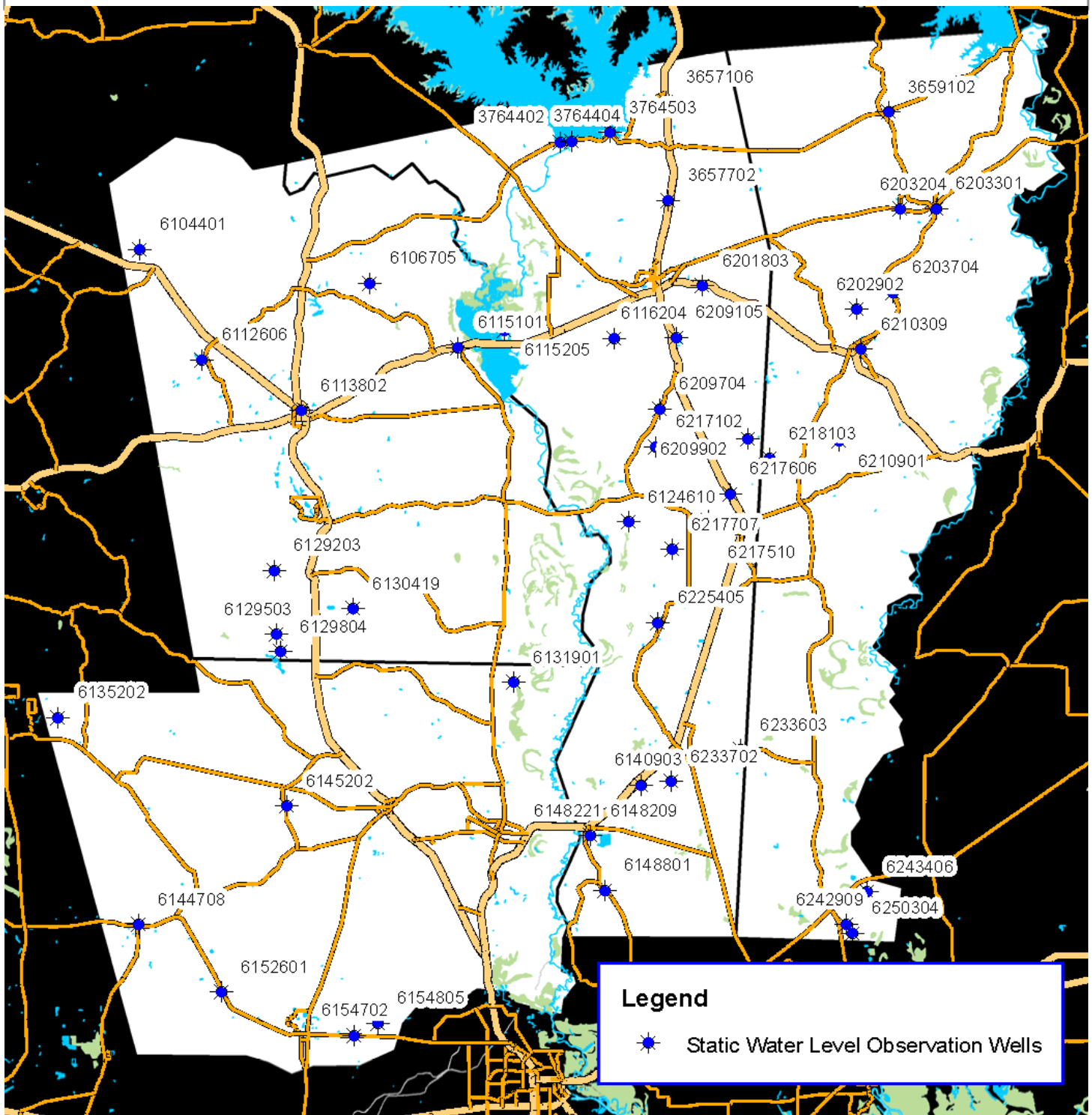
adjustments, and remembering that water connects us to one another and to the environment around us. When families, workplaces, and communities each take modest steps, the combined effect can be very meaningful. Every closed tap, repaired leak, full laundry load, and carefully watered garden is a quiet act of care. By treating water with respect today, we help ensure that it remains available, clean, and reliable for the future.

Washing Machines

- High-efficiency washers use 35 to 55 percent less water and 50 percent less energy.
- They also require less detergent, rinse more thoroughly, are less abrasive on clothes, and can fit larger capacity loads in the same size drum.



Static Water Level Observation Well Locations & State ID



What Is A Static Water Level?

The Static Water Level is the distance from the surface of the ground down to the water table when a well is not being pumped. This is sometimes called the resting water level. For example, a static water level reading of -25 feet means that the distance from the ground down to the water table is 25 feet.

In the data on the following page, I have included a column indicating the amount of static water level change from the previous year. If the number is positive, it means that the water level rose in that particular well. If the change is a negative number, it means that the water level is lower than the previous year. Typically, large drops or rises are indicative of shallow wells that are susceptible and reactive to wet and dry periods. Conversely, deep wells are very stable and often show little change in static water level even after long periods of drought or periods of excessive precipitation.

STATIC WATER LEVELS

State Wel ID	County	Date Drilled	Well Depth	Early W.L. Reading / Year of W.L. Reading		Fall_2024	Spring_2025	Fall_2025
6131901	Hardin	1940	53	-38.79	1942	-40.35	-6.62	-40.47
6135202	Hardin	2003	363	-64	2003	-57.35	-55.72	-57.5
6144708	Hardin	1957	72	-24.12	1942	-26.88	-25.86	-26.71
6145202	Hardin	2009	220	-12	2009	-11.00	-6.90	-12.35
6152601	Hardin	1948	764	-21	1948	-27.14	-28.15	
6154702	Hardin	1951	1027	-23.94	1966	-29.05	-28.00	-31.00
6154805	Hardin	1998	618	-60	1998	-32.55	-27.77	-28.68
6154704	Hardin	2023	900	-37	2023	-32.88	-30.25	-34.62
3657106	Jasper	1938	20	-8.7	1997	-8.90	-5.90	-10.35
3657702	Jasper	1994	378	-117.7	1997		-115.55	-116.68
3764402	Jasper	1962	300	-114.3	-114	-110.42	-108.15	-114.02
3764404	Jasper	1982	260	-66	1982	-46.93	-43.40	-50.63
3764503	Jasper	1981	260	-33.2	1997	-35.02	-29.54	-38.86
6115205	Jasper	1984	442	39.96	1984	40.08	41.92	-41.92
6116204	Jasper	1965	220	-51.7	1997	-51.78	-50.17	-51.95
6124610	Jasper	1998	200	-33.16	2008	-31.26	-29.56	-32.30
6148209	Jasper	1947	1295	-66.79	1956	-191.51	-200.97	-182.97
6148221	Jasper	pre 1956	671	-22.47	1956	-28.43	-27.15	-29.91
6148801	Jasper	1903	1084	-6.85	1960	-9.12	-6.10	-10.40
6201803	Jasper	1995	884	-85.1	1997	-83.20	-81.55	-82.80
6209105	Jasper	1967	15	-4.15	1997	-3.38	-1.86	-3.70
6209704	Jasper	1952	40	-35.84	1997	-34.45	-33.61	-35.95
6209902	Jasper	pre 1997	40	22.8	1997	-22.10	-12.75	-22.45
6217102	Jasper	1950	80	-54.85	1997	-80.00	0.00	0.00
6217510	Jasper	pre 1997	140	-15.9	1997	-18.60	-15.25	-19.06
6217606	Jasper	1964	70	-7.8	1997	-6.15	-1.55	-8.98
6217707	Jasper	1950	28	-9.35	1997		-4.80	-16.28
6225405	Jasper	1983	120	-58	1997	-58.45	-57.30	-59.30
6233603	Jasper	1940	18	-14.7	1997	-13.27	-9.10	-14.40
6140903	Jasper	2002	802	-119	2002	-116.20	-120.15	-118.70
6233702	Jasper	1995	540	-65	1995	-62.45	-66.58	-66.68
3659102	Newton	2000	170	-98.76	2009	-94.58	-92.55	-92.49
6202902	Newton	pre 1999	24	-13.03	1999	-12.15	-5.68	-13.41
6203204	Newton	1979	645	-65.4	1994	-66.60	-65.35	-66.50
6203301	Newton	1964	1050	-38.75	1992	-37.20	-36.53	-36.80
6203704	Newton	1989	640	-169	1989	-173.70	-171.65	-172.34
6210309	Newton	1964	1218	-61.38	1993	-64.10	-63.47	-64.28
6210901	Newton	1951	300	-13.68	1964	-17.26	-15.42	-17.20
6218103	Newton	1980	208	-32.3	1992	-37.60	-33.64	-38.15
6242909	Newton	1981	590	-39.15	1992	-38.60	-37.25	-38.52
6243406	Newton	1981	598	-30	1981	-27.57	-25.60	-27.60
6250304	Newton	1983	420	-40	1989	-38.45	-37.00	-38.17
6104401	Tyler	1935	860	-169.39	1960	-159.88	-159.52	-161.32
6106705	Tyler	1984	288	-145	1984	-148.35	-149.40	-149.93
6112606	Tyler	1960	250	-121.64	1964	-123.87	-123.38	-123.85
6113802	Tyler	1951	582	-155	1953	-165.25	-165.75	-164.57
6115101	Tyler	1964	68	-31.66	1964	-33.15	-32.62	-33.00
6129203	Tyler	pre 1953	30	-22.73	1953	-23.00	-15.50	-24.18
6129503	Tyler	2008	250	-20	2008	-23.55	-16.50	-23.41
6130419	Tyler	pre 1965	22	-13.01	1965	-10.05	-3.55	-13.25
6129804	Tyler	1972	580	-22.92	2003	-30.23	-27.80	-40.73



THE SOUTHEAST TEXAS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SETGCD Well Monitor

**P.O. Box 75
Evadale, TX 77615
(409) 276-9004**

Permit Holder
Via Email Address On File

Did you know that the Gulf Coast Aquifer is also known as the Coastal Lowlands Aquifer System? Also, it is not confined to the State of Texas. It extends from the Texas/Mexico border all the way over to the Florida Panhandle.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 3, 2026	Independence Day – District office closed
July 9, 2026	SETGCD – Regular meeting of the Board, in Evadale, TX
September 7, 2026	Labor Day – District office closed
September 10, 2026	SETGCD – Regular meeting of the Board, in Evadale, TX
October 8, 2026	SETGCD—Regular meeting of the Board, in Evadale, TX
November 11, 2026	Veterans Day—District office closed
Nov. 26 & 27, 2026	Thanksgiving – District office closed
Dec. 25 & 26, 2026	Christmas – District office closed
January 1, 2027	New Years Day—District office closed
January 14, 2027	SETGCD—Regular meeting of the Board, location TBD
January 18, 2027	MLK Jr. Day—District office closed

In Honor of Fathers Day

Dad – Water Jokes

- H₂O is water, but what is H₂O₄?
Swimming and drinking of course.
- What did one ocean say to the other?
Nothing it just waved.
- How do you know if an ant is a boy or a girl ant? Throw them in water. If it sinks it's a girl, if it floats it's buoyant.
- What did the fish say when it swam into a wall? Dam!
- Why don't sharks attack lawyers?
Professional courtesy.
- What state does the Mississippi River flow in? Liquid.
- How do you make a water bed bouncier. Fill it with spring water.