



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Contact
Samantha Reiter, 936-494-3436
sreiter@lonestargcd.org

Lone Star Invites the Public to Comment on Planning Goals

Groundwater Conservation Districts in GMA 14 Propose 2021 Desired Future Conditions

CONROE, TX— (Apr. 23, 2021) The [Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District](#) (LSGCD) announced that it received proposed [Desired Future Conditions](#) (DFCs), beginning a ninety-day public comment period. Individuals who wish to share their thoughts on the proposed DFCs should submit their comments in writing to info@lonestargcd.org with the subject line “DFC Comments” no later than 11:59 p.m. on Jul. 19, 2021. LSGCD plans to hold a hearing this summer to receive and consider public comments. Individuals interested in sharing their thoughts in person should [sign-up for the District’s emails](#) to be notified of the hearing date and registration process.

The official version of the proposed DFCs are listed below:

The Member Districts of Groundwater Management Area 14 (“GMA 14”) propose the following Desired Future Conditions (“DFCs”) for the Gulf Coast Aquifer within Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Grimes, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler, Walker, Waller, and Washington counties:

In each county in GMA 14, no less than 70 percent median available drawdown remaining in 2080 and no more than an average of 1.0 additional foot of subsidence between 2009 and 2080.

The model simulation consistent with the above proposed DFCs was developed by using the Houston Area Groundwater Model (HAGM) and adjusting the pumping distribution in each county starting with the distribution used in the 2016 round of joint planning in GMA 14.

DFCs are planning goals used by the [Groundwater Conservation Districts](#) (GCDs), which make up [Groundwater Management Areas](#) (GMA), to balance conservation and development to meet the state’s needs. GCDs analyze empirical data and set goals to achieve the conditions specified in the future conditions. The DFCs will be approved by Jan. 5, 2022, and will include plans for what groundwater conditions will look like in 2080.

[The Texas Water Development Board](#) (TWBD) requires the state’s sixteen GMAs to submit their DFCs every five years. The last DFCs were completed in [2016](#), and the next round will be in

2026. [Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code](#) governs the process for creating these goals. This code mandates a ninety-day public comment period, after which time the voting GCDs in the GMA can amend the DFCs before approval and final adoption. Chapter 36 also allows the voting GCDs located within the same management area to have different DFCs based on varying aquifer conditions found within their boundaries. Chapter 36 requires the DFCs to represent the highest practicable level of production balanced with conservation.

At an Apr. 9, 2021 [GMA 14 Meeting](#), LSGCD proposed several options regarding the proposed 1-foot average subsidence metric to account for varying aquifer conditions within the GMA's boundaries. These proposals included binding the metric to only those GCDs in which subsidence is empirically proven to be a limiting factor or to only those GCDs who prefer to have the metric. LSGCD's proposals are supported by science and offer a workable solution for all the GCDs. The data used, known as model runs, during the DFC development repeatedly showed that remaining available drawdown, not subsidence, is the limiting factor for LSGCD.

LSGCD also cited an inability to accurately track the average metric due to the unequal distribution of monitoring sites and the timing of this metric as LSGCD currently has a subsidence study in progress that will not be completed after the approval deadline.

LSGCD invites all Montgomery County residents to review the proposed DFCs and consider what the goals mean for their right to groundwater access, water bills, and the County's future. The District will compile public comments and take them back to the voting GCDs for consideration before the DFCs are finalized and submitted to the TWDB. The report submitted to the TWDB explains the process used to develop the DFCs and addresses the public comments received to ensure your input is considered. TWDB reviews the report submitted to ensure it is administratively complete before the GCDs formally adopt their respective DFCs.

Individuals interested in full documentation surrounding DFCs should contact the District Office at 936-494-3436 or sreiter@lonestargcd.org.

About LSGCD: *LSGCD is led by a seven-member elected board of directors, whose primary interests are to regulate and conserve groundwater in Montgomery County while protecting the property rights and economic interests of the citizens who own the groundwater.*

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