

Uvalde County Underground Water
Conservation District

Groundwater Management Plan
1998 – 2008

Adopted August 27, 1998
Amended February 4, 1999

DISTRICT MISSION

The Uvalde County Underground Conservation District strives to protect the quality of, conserve, enhance, manage and promote the beneficial use of the groundwater resources of Uvalde County for the benefit of the citizens and the economy and to minimize waste.

TIME PERIOD FOR THIS PLAN

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This plan becomes effective upon adoption by the Board of Directors and replaces the previously adopted management plan. This plan will be implemented and will remain in effect until September 1, 2008.

STATEMENT OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The District recognizes that the groundwater resources of this region are of vital importance to the residents and the economy, and that this resource must be managed effectively. A basic understanding of the nature of the aquifers and their hydrogeologic characteristics, as well as the quantity of the groundwater resources, is the foundation from which to develop prudent planning measures. This management plan is intended as a tool to focus the programs and plans of the District to conserve the county's valuable groundwater resources while allowing their prudent use.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The District was created pursuant to Section 59, Article 16 of the Texas Constitution and validated by the 73rd Legislature under Article 2, Senate Bill 1477.

The District has the same boundaries as the County of Uvalde.

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES OF THE DISTRICT

The aquifers under the jurisdiction of the District include the Leona Gravels, Buda Limestone, Anacacho Formation, Austin Chalk, Glen Rose Formation and various formations of the Trinity Group. Of these aquifers, the Leona Gravel and the Austin Chalk are the most significant and have yields conducive to producing water for irrigation and other uses. The other aquifers are mostly used for domestic and livestock where Edwards Aquifer water is not available. Thus, this plan will focus on the Leona and Austin Chalk.

The District estimates the normal use of irrigation water in Uvalde County is an average of two acre feet per irrigated acre. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service estimates that there are 15,429 acres of land irrigated by groundwater from the Leona Gravel and Austin Chalk. The estimated annual use of groundwater being derived from aquifers in the county other than the Edwards Aquifer in the jurisdiction of the District is 30,858 acre feet.

Based on the fact that groundwater levels in the District are reasonably stable, the District estimates that the average annual recharge to aquifers in the county other than the Edwards Aquifer is effectively equal to the annual use, which is estimated to be 30,858 acre feet.

The Edwards Aquifer Authority has applied for and intends to conduct enhancement programs over the area of the District. The High Plains Water district has determined their weather modification program has resulted in an increase of rainfall of about 8 percent. Based on this information, the District concludes that average rainfall over area of the District should increase and result in an additional recharge of approximately 2,468 acre feet annually.

The estimated annual recharge to aquifers other than the Edwards Aquifer plus the projected rainfall enhancement result in a total estimated projected water supply of 33,326 acre feet within the District jurisdiction.

The District expects no significant increase in irrigation acreage. The Edwards Aquifer Authority enabling legislation allows recharge credits to be obtained by political subdivisions adding recharge to the Edwards Aquifer. Should the Edwards Aquifer Recharge program be implemented by use of *groundwater* from aquifers other than the Edwards Aquifer, groundwater that is now used for other purposes could be diverted to recharge to the Edwards Aquifer and, thus, could materially impact the availability of groundwater for beneficial use within the District and substantially impact historic use and accepted conservation practices. The District will evaluate such projects taking into account all applicable statutory and regulatory criteria to insure that the yield and quality of groundwaters in the District are not jeopardized and the rights and interests of groundwater users in the District are protected.

Based on the fact that irrigation costs are expected to increase, the District anticipates that more efficient irrigation equipment and methods will be employed, which will offset any increase in groundwater water use.

MANAGEMENT OF GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES:

The District will manage the supply of groundwater within the District in order to conserve the resource while seeking to maintain the economic viability of all resource user groups without waste. In consideration of the economic and cultural activities occurring within the District, the District has developed rules that identify and monitor waste. The District will promote water saving practices and the installation and use of water saving devices and irrigation equipment. All ongoing TWDB, USGS

and EAA observation studies and data collected will be monitored in order to gain additional information regarding changing storage conditions of groundwater supplies within the District jurisdiction. The District will work cooperatively with the investigation of the groundwater resources within the District and will make the results of investigations available to the public upon adoption by the Board.

The District will employ all technical resources at its disposal to evaluate the groundwater resources available within the District and to determine the effectiveness of conservation measures.

The District shall not allow recharge of an aquifer under its jurisdiction if the water being placed into the aquifer is of inferior quality to water residing in the formation.

The District has a Drought Management Plan in place. The General Manager will review the plan annually for any needed changes and make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Directors.

ACTIONS, PROCEDURES, PERFORMANCE AND AVOIDANCE FOR PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

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The District will implement the provisions of this plan as a guidepost for determining the direction or priority for all District activities. All operations of the District, and all agreements entered into by the District, and any additional planning efforts in which the District may participate will be consistent with the provisions of this plan.

The District shall treat all citizens with equality.

The District will seek cooperation of appropriate state, regional and local water management entities in the implementation of this plan and the management of groundwater supplies within the District

THE METHODOLOGY THE DISTRICT WILL USE TO TRACK PROGRESS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS FOR ACHIEVING ALL MANAGEMENT GOALS:

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The General Manager will prepare an annual report on District performance in achieving the management goals. The annual report will be presented to the Board of Directors during the first quarterly Board of Directors meeting each fiscal year, beginning January 2001. The report will include the number of instances in which each objective activity was engaged during the year, referenced to the expenditure of staff time and budget, so that the effectiveness and efficiency of each activity may be evaluated. The annual report will be maintained on file at the District office and made available to the public upon adoption by the Board.

MANAGEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Goal 1.0 to Control and Prevent the Waste of Groundwater:

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Management Objective:

Each year the District will provide education materials to the newspapers and to the general public on at least six occasions concerning waste, which is prohibited under the District rules.

Performance Standards:

- (a) The District will furnish at least six newspaper articles and/or public service announcements on an annual basis.
- (b) The District will investigate all reports of waste of groundwater within two working days.

Goal 2.0 Addressing Natural Resource Issues that Impact the Use and Availability of Groundwater and are Impacted by the Use of Groundwater:

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Management Objective:

Each year the District will cooperate with interested parties and appropriate agencies to develop additional information on aquifer recharge and weather modification projects.

Performance Standards:

- (a) The District will establish terms for all aquifer recharge, transportation or storage project permits. The District shall take into consideration all applicable factors and requirements of the District's rules and state law.
- (b) The District will make all information available to the District on such projects available to the general public and to permit applicants annually.
- (c) The District shall require owners or operators of all aquifer pumping, recharge, transportation or storage projects affecting the district, to obtain a permit amendment if the use, volume of groundwater pumped, location of or means of transportation, recharge or storage changes from the manner in which it was originally permitted.

Management Objective:

The District will require issuance of a well construction permit or preregistration of exempt wells, not requiring a construction permit, prior to the drilling of all new wells.

Performance Standard:

All well construction permits in compliance with the District rules will be issued within 20 days. Well construction permits not in compliance will be considered at the next regular board meeting.

Goal 3.0 Providing for the Efficient use of Groundwater within the District:

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Management Objective:

Each year the District will make available educational brochures to the public promoting and explaining conservation methods and concepts, on at least one occasion.

Performance Standard:

The District will make educational material available at least one time per year through Service Organizations and on a continuing basis at the District Office.

Management Objective:

Each year, the District will provide informative speakers to school and civic groups to raise public awareness of practices that insure the efficient use of groundwater.

Performance Standard:

Each year, the District will make at least two public speaking appearances to promote the efficient use of groundwater.

SENATE BILL 1 MANAGEMENT GOALS NOT APPLICABLE
TO THE DISTRICT

Goal 4.0 The Control and Prevention of Subsidence:

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The geologic framework of the District Area precludes any significant subsidence from occurring. This management goal is not applicable to the operations of the District.

Goal 5.0 Addressing Conjunctive Surface Water Management Issues:

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Except as provided in Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, the District has no jurisdiction over surface water. The District shall consider the effects of surface water resources as required by Section 36.113 and other state law.

RESOLUTION NO. 020499

By the Board of Directors of the Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District re-adopting and amending a Groundwater Management Plan for the years 1998-2008

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District, on August 27, 1988, approved and adopted a Groundwater Management Plan; and

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WHEREAS, the District has received comments on the Groundwater Management Plan which it wishes to review; and

WHEREAS, copies of the Groundwater Management Plan have continued to be made available at the District office so that citizens had opportunities for review; and

WHEREAS, public notice was posted at the county courthouse and the District office and was delivered to the county newspaper and radio stations 8 days in advance of the hearing, which identified the site at which the plan was made available to the public; and

WHEREAS, the public notice informed citizens of a public hearing to be held in Uvalde on September 17, 1998 to hear comments on the District's Groundwater Management Plan, so that the Board of Directors might receive the comments of the Uvalde County citizens; and

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WHEREAS, following completion of the procedures outlined above, the Board of Directors met on September 17, 1998, to hold a public hearing to receive and consider citizen comments on the plan, and, following the public hearing, to allow 30 days to receive and consider further written comments on the plan, and then to hold a public meeting to re-adopt the District's Groundwater Management Plan with any amendments thereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District, on February 4, 1999, approved and adopted, as amended, the Groundwater Management Plan outlined herein by the following action:

Motion made to approve the plan Paul Edwards

Second to the motion to approve Vic Hilderbran

The vote was for approval unanimous
The vote against approval 0

Attested to by:

Rodney Reagan
President of the Board

Knozie Johnson
Secretary

Date: 2-4-99



NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY

GENERAL OFFICE
First State Bank Bldg., Suite 206
200 E. Nopal • P.O. Box 349
Uvalde, Texas 78802-0349
Tel: 830-278-6810 • Fax: 830-278-2025

COASTAL BEND DIVISION
Natural Resources Center, Suite 3100
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412
Tel: 361-825-3193 • Fax: 361-825-3195

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JAMES DODSON
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

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September 17, 1999

Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District
First State Bank Building, Suite 203
200 E. Nopal
Uvalde, Texas 78801

Dear Board of Directors:

Thank you for the copy of the Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District's Groundwater Management Plan which was adopted on August 27, 1998 and amended on February 4, 1999 and which was developed in conjunction with the Nueces River Authority.

Sincerely,

Con Mims
Executive Director

February 19, 1999

Texas Water Development Board
1700 North Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13231
Austin, Texas 78711-3231

Attention: Mr. Randy Williams

Dear Mr. Williams:

At their February 4, 1999 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District amended the District's comprehensive Groundwater Management Plan. Please find enclosed a copy of the amended plan, along with a signed copy of the Board resolution adopting same.

If you have any comments or questions, or need further copies, please feel free to contact me at the District offices.

Sincerely,



Liza Toombs
Office Manager

Enclosures